

Aden may reconsider death sentences

ABU DHABI (R) — South Yemen's president has promised to raise with the ruling politburo the issue of commuting death sentences on his deposed predecessor and 34 of his followers, a Gulf daily newspaper said on Saturday. "President (Haidar) Abu Bakr Al Attas assured me that he would ask the Socialist Party politburo to consider commuting death sentences against Ali Nasser Mohammad and 34 of his men," Ahmad Al Khawaja, head of the Arab Lawyers Federation, was quoted as telling the daily Al Itihad. Mr. Khawaja visited Aden earlier this week to plead for the death sentences against Mr. Nasser Mohammad and his men to be annulled. Mr. Nasser Mohammad and thousands of supporters fled to North Yemen after a bloody war between party factions in January last year. He has said that the verdicts have set back efforts to unite North and South Yemen and he threatened unspecified action. A total of 108 people, 64 of them in custody, were charged with high treason for their role in the 1986 fighting. North Yemen and several Arab states have appealed to the Aden government to commute the sentences.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية «الراي»

Maghreb states discuss fraternity pact

ALGIERS (R) — Tunisian Foreign Minister Ahmad Mesliti arrived in Algiers on Saturday amid a flurry of diplomatic activity in the Maghreb countries. The official news agency APS said Mr. Mesliti would have talks with Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmad Taleb Ibrahimi and diplomatic sources said they would be joined on Sunday by Mauritanian Foreign Minister Mohammad Lamine Guld N'diayane. The three ministers would review a fraternity treaty signed by their countries in 1983, the sources said, and discuss the eventual inclusion of Libya in the pact. Algerian Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Brahimi went to Libya this week in the latest in a series of high-level contacts designed to establish closer links between the two countries. Libya is expected to join the Maghreb treaty after restoring diplomatic relations with Tunisia, severed by Tunis in 1986 after Tripoli expelled over 30,000 Tunisian workers. Relations have improved gradually this year. Morocco, the fifth Maghreb state, discussed normalising its relations with Algeria at talks in Rabat on Thursday.

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Their Majesties begin

Soviet visit tomorrow

AMMAN (J.T.) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor will begin a several-day official visit to the Soviet Union on Monday upon an invitation from the Supreme Soviet and the government, the Royal Court announced Saturday. The announcement, carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King would hold talks with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, President Andrei Gromyko and senior officials on topics of mutual interest and means to boost relations between the two countries.

Light plane lands on

Karak road

AMMAN (R) — A British pilot flying a microlight aircraft from London to Sydney made an emergency landing on a road in Karak on Saturday. The Daigety Flier, piloted by Brian Milton, developed engine trouble and landed safely near Karak soon after leaving Aqaba for Amman. A civil aviation official said. He said a maintenance team had been sent by helicopter from Amman to help with repairs but darkness fell before the plane could be mended. Milton, who is a sponsored flight to commemorate an air race from Britain to Australia in 1919, would try to resume his flight to Amman on Sunday.

Sheikh Zayed due in

Cairo this month

DUBAI (R) — United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan will pay his first official visit to Egypt this month, Al Bayan newspaper said on Saturday. Sheikh Zayed early in December accepted an invitation to visit Egypt from President Hosni Mubarak, who visited the UAE in January after attending the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) summit in Kuwait. Al Bayan said Sheikh Zayed would fly to Cairo soon after the Dec. 20 summit to Riyadh of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states — Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, the UAE and Qatar.

Egypt rejects Libyan

claim

CAIRO (R) — Egypt denied on Saturday a Libyan charge that Egyptian helicopter gunships protected Israeli warplanes which Tripoli said flew over eastern Libya earlier this week. A military spokesman said the claims were "mere illusions and lies."

Abdul Meguid

visits Spain

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid left on Saturday for an official visit to Spain and talks on bilateral ties and the Middle East. Mr. Abdul Meguid told reporters he would attend a meeting of the Egyptian-Spanish committee which would discuss ways of expanding relations. His talks in Madrid will cover the Middle East situation and Spain's potential role, as a member of the European Community, towards achieving a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

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Lower House endorses JD 1.075 billion budget

Rifai pledges to use Arab aid to repay foreign debts and outlines moves to curb public spending
Deputies call for increased aid to occupied territories

By Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament on Saturday approved the 1988 fiscal budget following assurances by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai that the government would use the expected JD 250 million Arab aid to repay the country's foreign debts.

"The government has decided to channel any instalment of the due Arab financial aid towards paying Jordan's debt," Mr. Rifai told the ordinary session of the Lower House. The JD 1.075.4 million budget

for 1988 reflects estimated increases in both expenditures and local revenues, But Mr. Rifai said the government would seek to curb spending without resorting to borrowing and give priority to financing developmental and productive projects. He said the government would achieve its objectives through improving the means of collecting and increasing local revenues. He reiterated the government's confidence that the success of the Amman extraordinary Arab summit will prompt the Arab Gulf states to fulfil their financial commitments to Jordan. This confidence was reflected in the 1988 budget. Mr. Rifai disclosed that government was expecting to receive more than the estimated \$250 million in Arab aid next year. "To be accurate, the figure has become much higher than the one contained in the budget," he said. The new budget contains an expected 68 per cent increase from the 1987 Arab aid of JD 120 million. The prime minister indicated that the government would improve its local sources of revenues by maintaining protectionist policies of the country's infant industries, promoting the marketing and manufacturing of agricultural products, exporting skilled labour to neighbouring countries and the rehabilitation of troubled projects and companies. He said the government was

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Focus of Palestinian revolt shifts to occupied Jerusalem

Protesters attack Israeli banks and restaurant on 12th day of violent anti-occupation demonstrations

Combined agency dispatches

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — The focus on the 12-day-old Palestinian uprising shifted to occupied Jerusalem on Saturday and reports said that Arab demonstrators smashed windows of three Israeli banks and burned an Israeli-owned restaurant in the worst Arab protests in the occupied city for more than a decade. Thirty-three Palestinians were arrested in the protests, police said. Four Israeli policemen were slightly injured in various clashes. The protests marked the 12th straight day of violent demonstrations in the occupied territories. In Baghdad, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said Israeli forces shot dead a Palestinian on Saturday. PLO spokesman Bassam Abu Sherif said the death of Khamis Al Bakri raised the Palestinian casualty toll in 12 days to 49 dead and 472 injured. Abu Sherif told Reuters the

Israeli authorities declared the Dar Al Shafaa hospital in Gaza a military zone on Saturday and prevented medical staff treating patients injured in the protests. The PLO executive committee, which has its headquarters in Baghdad, called on Saturday for Palestinians to observe a general strike on Monday in support of the uprising in the occupied territories. "Victory is approaching... the occupation will not remain on our sacred homeland," the committee said in a statement. Israel has conceded that 16 Palestinian protesters have been shot dead by troops in the protests. The Palestine Press Service said Khamis Al Bakri died in a road accident and was not shot dead by Israeli forces. But it said he could be counted as a casualty of the protests because he fell under the wheels of an Arab car while running away from a demonstration in which

Israeli police were firing tear-gas. Israeli police said they used tear-gas to disperse the demonstrators in Arab Jerusalem's main shopping street and fired in the air when protesters threw petrol bombs at a police station in an outlying district. Protesters burned tyres and debris in the street, stopping traffic for several hours. Police said demonstrators smashed the windows of three Israeli banks in Arab Jerusalem and damaged the buildings. Others set fire to a Jewish-owned restaurant in the Arab neighbourhood of Jabal Mukabber. Elsewhere, Israeli soldiers opened fire when protesters threw petrol bombs at a police station in the outlying district of Azariyeh. No casualties were reported. Shops and schools were closed throughout Arab Jerusalem, which has a population of 130,000

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Security Council postpones vote on occupied territories

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The Security Council adjourned a week-long debate on the situation in the Israeli-occupied territories on Friday without taking a vote. The council will resume the debate on Monday. Council President Alexander Belouogov of the Soviet Union said consultations on a resolution had not yet been completed and more time was needed. Council sources quoted by Reuters said wide agreement had been reached on a number of changes aimed at softening a previously-circulated draft so that the United States would at least be able to abstain, instead of using its veto. The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Arab

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Parliament denounces Israeli actions, seeks regional and int'l intervention

By Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament on Saturday strongly called on regional and international organisations to denounce Israel's barbaric and inhuman oppression of the Palestinian people living in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and voiced total support for the ongoing Arab protests in the occupied territories.

In cables sent to various organisations after a regular session on Saturday, the Lower House also urged the international community to seek an immediate end to Israel's oppressive actions against the Palestinian people. "The House calls on all international organisations to intervene and put an end to Israel's barbaric, inhuman and atrocious actions against the Palestinians," said the cables. "Israel's oppressive measures are flagrant and clear violations of all international laws and Geneva conventions." During Saturday's session, various deputies denounced Israel's "iron fist" policy against the

Palestinian people in the last 12 days of violent protests in the occupied West Bank and Gaza. The prime minister, Mr. Zaid Rifai, speaking at the session, reaffirmed Jordan's total support for the steadfastness of the Palestinian people against Israel's occupation and said the Kingdom was making available all possible means and resources to guarantee the Arab people's rights in their national soil. The cables were sent by the House to the United Nations, the Security Council, the European Community (EC), the Arab League General Secretariat, the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Arab Parliamentary Union. The House's unanimous decision to appeal to regional and international organisations and Mr. Rifai's remarks on the issue followed intense discussions by deputies on the situation in the occupied territories. Though Saturday's session was wholly dedicated to discussing the 1988 fiscal budget — which was endorsed during that meeting —

Deputies Mousa Abu Ghoush (Ramallah), Daoud Suleiman (Jerusalem), Maarouf Rabaa (Jenin), and Hifzi Malhees (Nablus) delivered speeches on the wave of Arab resistance. The House also observed a minute of silence in memory of the Palestinian martyrs who were killed by the Israeli authorities. Apart from the speeches given by the four deputies, the majority of the 24 other legislators who spoke on the 1988 budget also dedicated segments of their remarks to hail the Palestinians' resistance against the occupation. Deputies Nawaf Al Qadi (the northern badia constituency) and Mufeed Al Mubaslat (Nablus) urged the government to make special financial allocations to support the victims of the Israeli oppression. Mr. Rabaa cautioned that if left unaddressed, "the wave of Palestinian resistance against the Israelis will expand to include the Israeli-occupied Arab Golan Heights and the Palestinian cities that were occupied in 1948."

See page 5 for deputies' speeches

Mubarak receives King's message, issues strong condemnation of Israel

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Saturday received a message from His Majesty King Hussein dealing with the current events in the occupied Arab territories and Israel's inhuman practices against the Arab population there. The message was delivered to Mr. Mubarak by Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem who told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the message also dealt with the ongoing coordination between Jordan and Egypt in Arab affairs. "What is going on in the occupied territories calls for serious efforts to convene an international conference for achieving peace in the Middle East," Mr. Qasem said. He said the coming weeks

would witness the fruit of the outcome of last month's Arab summit in Amman, "but there is need now for following up on the summit's resolutions." He said that the summit gave "a new concept for Arab solidarity which is vital for the Arab Nation." Mr. Mubarak's meeting with Mr. Qasem was attended by Dr. Osama Al Baz, director of the president's office for political affairs, and Mr. Hussein Hammami, Jordan's ambassador to Egypt. Petra said the King's message to Mr. Mubarak also dealt with means of maintaining contacts with the international community over the occupied territories and urging them to help stop Israel's arbitrary and repressive measures

against the Arab people. Immediately after meeting with Mr. Qasem, President Mubarak conferred with Prime Minister Atef Sedki and other top aides. They included Defence Minister Abdul Halim Abu Ghazala and Butros Ghali, the state minister for foreign affairs. Afterwards, the information minister, Safwat Al Sherif, told reporters topics discussed at the meeting included "acts of repression and aggression perpetrated by Israel in the occupied Gaza sector and the West Bank." It was the second strong condemnation of Israel's actions in two days by Egypt. On Friday, Dr. Ghali attacked Israel's repressive measures in

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Iraqi president and Saudi leader meet in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia was received by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on Saturday and diplomats said his visit apparently was aimed at helping the normalisation process between Iraq and Syria. Baghdad Radio said the Iraqi leader and the Saudi prince reviewed "strong brotherly relations, means of developing them and Arab conditions in general." It gave no further details. Earlier in the day, the Saudi prince had been greeted at the airport by senior officials. Arab diplomats in Baghdad

said the visit apparently was aimed at giving the rapprochement between Iraq and Syria further momentum following efforts made by King Hussein to reconcile Syrian President Hafez Al Assad with the Iraqi president. Kuwait's Al Sayesah newspaper said this week that Prince Abdullah would also visit Syria and Egypt to promote reconciliation between Syria and Iraq and to help to normalise ties between Cairo and other Arab countries. The Saudi Press Agency said Thursday that he would also visit Jordan.

U.S. expulsion may spark similar move by Moscow

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. decision to expel a Soviet diplomat accredited to the United Nations raised the prospect of a new round of tit-for-tat expulsions just a week after the end of the superpower summit. State Department spokesman Charles Redman announced on Friday that the United States was expelling Mikhail Katkov, a second secretary at the Soviet U.N. mission, for "abusing his privileges of residence." In diplomatic terms, this is jargon for spying. Redman said Mr. Katkov was expected to leave shortly but gave no details of his alleged espionage activities. The expulsion announcement came eight days after President Reagan and Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev ended a three-day summit in Washington at which officials from both sides expressed hopes that a new era in

Soviet-American relations was beginning. Mr. Katkov was detained in New York on Thursday by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which had been watching him for some time. Redman said. He gave the impression that Mr. Katkov had been caught red-handed, saying the arrest was sparked by his "own actions" at the time. FBI spokeswoman Sue Schnitzer said Mr. Katkov had been released to representatives of the Soviet U.N. mission after U.S. authorities established he had diplomatic immunity. Redman denied a suggestion the arrest might have been delayed to avoid souring the climate at the summit meeting, saying the case was handled without regard to the "so-called summit spirit." "I've tried to make clear that when these cases arise we deal with them firmly and forcefully,"

U.S.: Arms embargo on Iran is long overdue

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Iran's five-month delay in accepting U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 calling for a ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war is obvious stalling, a U.S. official has said. The official, who asked that he not be identified, said "Iranians have been contemptuous of the U.N. system... Its very clear to us — and it should be to the Soviets, the Chinese and the rest of the world — that the Iranians do not want to accept or implement Resolution 598. They want to turn it around. They've been stalling." "We hope the Soviets have decided now it is time — past time — to get down to action." The official added: "The (U.N. Security) Council should act as it was meant to act and put some teeth in that action. In the context of that, Security Council members have to decide what is going to be implemented... how its going to be enforced. But you can't put the cart before the horse — you can't say how you're going to enforce something that has not been drafted. It doesn't make sense. We hope that early next week the council will get together for this."

In response to wide ranging questions on other topics the official said on Thursday: — The U.S. has repeatedly made it clear to the government of Israel that it is essential to reduce tension and violence on the West Bank and Gaza. — The U.S. believes an improved standard of living and an environment in which all peoples of the region can live fruitfully and safely is as important to the government of Israel as to the Palestinian people. — A priority regional issue at the recent U.S.-Soviet summit was enlisting Soviet cooperation to achieve a comprehensive peace settlement and an end to the Iran-Iraq war. — An unresolved regional issue between the United States and the Soviet Union was "when the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan would begin and when it is going to end." At the State Department, spokesman Charles Redman pointed out that all United Nations member states would be required to comply with a resolution currently being drafted in New York that would impose an embargo on all arms sales to Iran. This, he said, was the most important aspect of this so-called enforcement resolution. Currently the subject of informal consultations at the United Nations, the enforcement resolution is a follow-up to 598.

Iranian-hit Danish ship flees from new threat

DUBAI (Agencies) — Tailed by an Iranian warship, a Danish supertanker ploughed at full throttle from the Gulf under the shadow of a circling U.S. gunship after being attacked on Saturday by Revolutionary Guard speedboats. There was no immediate indication that any of the U.S. and European warships patrolling the Gulf intervened to protect the 337,700-ton Karama Maersk. But a spokesman for the owners, A.P. Moeller Shipping Co., said in Copenhagen that U.S. warships later escorted the tanker through the Strait of Hormuz, the southern gateway to the Gulf. He did not identify the U.S. navy vessels. The executives noted earlier that the tanker had continued its voyage southward down the waterway toward Hormuz without assistance. The owners said the Karama Maersk was not damaged and suffered no casualties among the 21-mao crew in the attacks launched only 20 minutes apart. The executives earlier reported "minor damage," but did not elaborate. The sources said the Iranians' aim apparently was to create panic rather than hit the vessel. "They were clearly out to terrorise this time, apparently fir-

ing at random around the vessel more than at it," one source said. "The hull of the vessel was slightly damaged but it proceeded, and there was no fire or injuries," he added. The tanker was laden with Saudi Arabian oil, which shipping sources said was destined for the United States. A.P. Moeller spokesman Palle Genckel told AP in Copenhagen that the company was considering calling on the Danish government to send warships to the Gulf to protect their merchant ships. Shipping executives reported Friday that the U.S. navy had deviated from this policy for the first time by escorting the Norwegian tanker Happy Kari through Hormuz after it had been attacked by the Iranians. The Pentagon, which denied that report, has made no comment yet on the Danish company's statement. Saturday's speedboat attack on the Karama Maersk, south of the Revolutionary Guards base on Abu Musa Island, was the third on a supertanker in two days. On Friday, Iranian gunboats ambushed two supertankers, the Norwegian Happy Kari and the Liberian Saudi Splendor as they sailed fully loaded out of the Gulf. No one was hurt in either attack.

Lebanese rightists stage anti-Syrian protest

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese rightists went on strike in east Beirut on Saturday in protest at the arrest of Christians in north Lebanon by Syrian troops searching for the killer of a comrade. Banks, shops and most businesses failed to open as workers stayed at home in the predominantly Christian east of the Lebanese capital, witnesses said. The one-day strike was organised by the Lebanese Front, a coalition of rightist politicians and militias opposed to the presence of an estimated 25,000 Syrian troops in west Beirut and north and east Lebanon. "The strike is a symbolic refusal of the Syrian presence and to back our people in the occupied north, now subject to all kinds of Syrian terrorism," said an official of the Lebanese Forces militia. The official accused Syrian troops this week of abducting as many as 100 Christians and destroying houses in the Koura district and coastal town of Cheka, 60 kilometres north of Beirut. The troops were hunting for the killer of a Syrian soldier whose body was found a week ago in Bttrram village in Syrian-controlled Koura, Syrian sources said. Police said more than 10 Christians were believed to still be in Syrian detention and travellers from the region said the roundup soured relations between residents and Syrian troops.

Wives appeal for release of kidnapped Beirut teachers

BEIRUT (Agencies) — The wives of three American teachers and an Indian academic kidnapped 11 months ago called Saturday for their release by kidnappers who have threatened to harm the men to avenge Arabs slain by the Israelis.

"We again appeal for word on our husbands' well-being and ask for the release of these men," the women said in a statement released by Beirut University College (BUC) where the four educators held teaching posts before they were kidnapped Jan. 24.

The statement, signed "the wives of the kidnapped professors," was issued the day after the captors, Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine, threatened that the hostages could be harmed unless Israel stops killing Palestinian demonstrators in occupied Arab territory.

The underground group made the threat in a statement delivered to a Western news agency in mainly Muslim west Beirut Friday with photographs of two of the four hostages.

The photos showed Jesse Turner, 40, of Boise, Idaho, a computer science professor, and Robert Polhill, 54, of New York City, a lecturer in accounting.

The bespectacled Polhill was shown wearing a dark blue track suit with what appeared to be two automatic rifles pointed at his head as he stood against a wall.

The other photo showed Turner from the waist up. He had a beard and his eyes were closed, apparently because of the flashlight used to take the picture.

The other hostages are Alan Steen, 48, of Boston, a communications instructor, and Fiance Professor Mithileswar Singh, 60, a native of India and legal resident alien of the United States.

Their captors have offered to swap them for Arab prisoners held in Israel. But Israel has rejected that offer and the United States has refused to pressure Israel to bow to the terrorists' demands.

"The group indicates that it might seek extremely negative measures against America and Israel and play all cards, including the safety of the four American spies for the Mossad (Israel's secret service) if the criminal methods continue to curb the uprising and kill innocents," the kidnappers' statement said.

The captives' wives dismissed the charge that their husbands were Israeli spies.

They said the four "came here and stayed to help promote higher education and understanding. They fervently support human rights, freedom and peace for all."

The BUC statement said the "wives have received the letter (statement) and photographs from the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine. We are grateful for the communication."

The kidnappers' statement noted: "Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine calls on our people to continue and escalate the uprising."

At least 17 Arabs have been killed by Israeli soldiers in the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank in 12 days of violence.

Twenty-one foreigners have been missing, feared kidnapped, in Lebanon since March 1985 — eight Americans, four Frenchmen, three Britons, a West German, an Italian, an Irishman, an Indian and two unidentified foreigners.

Meanwhile Lebanon's Italian community appealed on Saturday for news of a compatriot missing for 27 months and believed kidnapped in Beirut.

The plea for 68-year-old businessman Alberto Molinari followed a threat from the kidnappers.

In an appeal to all Lebanese published in Beirut newspapers, the Italian community and Molinari's family said they had always been friends and supporters of Lebanon.

Molinari disappeared on Sept. 11, 1985 after setting off to drive over the ravaged "green line" dividing east and west Beirut.

"Nothing has been discovered of the reason for his abduction or about his condition. His wife and children wait in hope of finding some news on the health of their loved one and anything that could lead to his release," the appeal said.

It called on anyone with information to contact Italian consulates in Christian east or mainly Muslim west Beirut.

Molinari is one of 24 foreigners missing and believed kidnapped in Lebanon. The plea was the fourth to be issued in Lebanon since Tuesday by relatives and friends of missing foreigners.

foreigners missing since March 1985.

Cordes' abduction was linked to the arrest in Frankfurt of Lebanese Shi'ite Muslim Mohammed Ali Hamadei, a suspect in the 1985 hijacking of the American TWA jetliner to Beirut.

Hamadei remains in investigative custody in Frankfurt. His trial has not been scheduled. However, his older brother, Abbas Ali Hamadei, arrested on Jan. 26, goes on trial early next year on charges of involvement in the kidnapping of two West Germans in Beirut.

ground targeting system, with 40 of the devices ultimately to be built for Israel and 80 for the U.S. Marine Corps.

The prime contractor will be Tamam Precision Instruments Industries, a division of Israeli Aircraft Industries Ltd. of Yahud, Israel, the Pentagon added.

Court rejects challenge to Reagan Gulf policy

WASHINGTON (R) — A U.S. judge on Friday rejected a challenge by Democratic congressmen to President Reagan's policy of providing naval protection to Kuwaiti vessels in the Gulf.

The 110 congressmen charged in a court suit that Mr. Reagan violated the 1972 war powers resolution by sending warships to protect Kuwaiti tankers which had been registered under the American flag against attack by Iran.

The resolution, adopted during the Vietnam war over the veto of President Richard Nixon, sets forth procedures to guarantee Congress has a role in decisions about the deployment of U.S. Armed Forces when no war had been declared.

The congressmen said U.S. troops had been introduced in a hostile region without the administration submitting reports to Congress and giving the legislative branch an opportunity to approve or disapprove the actions.

Mr. Reagan has maintained the law was unconstitutional and did not apply to the Gulf, where the U.S. protection of 11 Kuwaiti ships began last July.

U.S. district Judge George R. Gorman refused to exercise jurisdiction and granted the administration's motion to dismiss the case.

Noting that attempts to pass legislation to force Mr. Reagan to comply had failed, the judge said he believed the dispute was between the plaintiffs in the case and their colleagues in Congress.

Congress was free to adopt a variety of positions on the war powers resolution, Judge Gorman said.

"If the court were to intervene in this political process, it would be acting beyond the limits inherent in the constitutional scheme," he said in a written order.

The suit was brought by 110 members of the House of Representatives. Three Senators originally were plaintiffs but later withdrew.

Though the United States is officially neutral in the seven-year Iran-Iraq war, congressmen opposed to the Kuwaiti protection operation say it represents a U.S. "tilt" toward Iraq, Kuwait is one of Iraq's major backers in the conflict.

Democrats and some moderate Republicans have called for an end to the Kuwaiti protection operation though they say U.S. forces should remain in the Gulf to protect legitimate American security interests.

Bush shrugs off campaign damage from Iran memo

CONCORD, New Hampshire (AP) — Vice President George Bush on Friday shrugged off possible campaign damage from a memo linking him to the Iran-contra scandal, saying people "don't want to be dwelling in the past."

Mr. Bush told reporters, just before formally entering New Hampshire's first-in-the-nation primary, "I've never felt stronger politically."

He predicted the newly found memo's political effect would be "absolute nothing."

Mr. Bush said there was nothing new in the memo, which he characterized as merely confirming "I stood with the president."

And he said details of any Iran advice he gave President Ronald Reagan would remain private.

The memo, written early last year by then-National Security Adviser John M. Poindexter and released Thursday by the Senate Iran-Contra Committee, indicated Adm. Poindexter was optimistic that sales of weapons to Iran would help bring about the release of some Americans held in Lebanon.

Mr. Reagan's top advisers were divided on the issue, Adm. Poindexter wrote, "but most importantly, president and VP are

solid in taking the position that we have to try."

The congressional investigative committee, in a report before the Poindexter memo was discovered, concluded that Mr. Bush was not an important participant in White House decisions concerning the affair.

Former Secretary of State Alexander Haig, a rival for the Republican presidential nomination, said, "clearly, George Bush has a credibility crisis on this issue. The American people have a right to know just what he advised our president: To pay ransom or not to pay ransom?"

But Mr. Bush, bombarded by questions about the memo at an impromptu news conference Friday, said of the Iran-contra controversy, "any corrections that needed to be made have been made a year-and-a-half ago. People are smart. They don't want to be dwelling in the past all the time. They want to look forward and solve the problems that are facing our country."

During appearances throughout New Hampshire Thursday and Friday, he was asked repeatedly about the memo and his position on the Iran deal.

He said there was "nothing new in saying I stood with the president" in support of the deal at the time the Fed. 1, 1986 memo was written. But he said the deal was not presented as a trade of arms for hostages at that time.

"After all the facts were in, I think everyone understood it was a bad idea."

As for revealing what he and Mr. Reagan talked about personally, he said, "If the price for my winning the election is that I have to go out and violate that confidence, I'm not going to pay that price."

The congressional committee said: "It is... the first evidence (albeit hearsay) the committee have found concerning the vice president's position on the Iran initiative."

Steve Hart, Mr. Bush's press spokesman, said the report was consistent with Mr. Bush's own statements and was not new.

"Poindexter's note is only consistent with what the vice president has said in the past," Mr. Hart said. "He supported the effort to free our hostages and he supported the president's initiative on Iran despite some reservations."

Mr. Hart also said: "It's fair to say the president was aware of his reservations."

The revelation could damage Mr. Bush's standing in the presidential race by undermining his claim to foreign policy expertise and identifying him with what the American public regards as a monumental failure.

Adm. Poindexter's Feb. 1 note also says that William Casey, then director of the Central Intelligence Agency, Donald Reagan, then White House chief of staff, Attorney General Edwin Meese and Adm. Poindexter were "fully on board this risky operation."

It reports as well an assertion by Iranian middleman Manucher Ghorbanifar that the Ayatollah Khomeini would step down shortly and the hostages soon would be released.

In a December 1986 speech, less than a month after the arms sales became public, Mr. Bush became the first top administration official to acknowledge that the administration made mistakes in dealing with Iran.

But he never spelled out what those errors were.

"I was aware of our initiative and I support the president's decision," he said at that time.

He stated then, and has said so repeatedly since, that he opposed any swap of arms for hostages.

U.S. envoy reportedly accuses Israel of rights violations in West Bank

CAIRO (Agencies) — A state-owned national daily newspaper on Saturday quoted the U.S. ambassador to Egypt as saying Israel has violated the human rights of Palestinian inhabitants of the occupied West Bank and Gaza sector.

Al Gomhouria fronted an interview with Ambassador Frank G. Wisner, in which he commented on unrest in the two territories. The Israeli army says 15 Arabs have been killed there in 11 days of riots protesting 20 years of occupation by Israel.

Mr. Wisner also told the newspaper President Hosni Mubarak will visit the United States in late January.

"On one hand, the U.S. administration does not approve of the reciprocal violence by the Palestinians and the Israelis," the newspaper quoted Mr. Wisner as saying. "On the other hand, it does not approve of the violations of human rights perpetrated by Israel."

Al Gomhouria also reported that he said the Palestinian protests constitute "a natural product of the Israeli occupation and the pressures resulting from human rights violations."

A U.S. embassy spokesman told the Associated Press: "By nuance at least, the Arabic version in Al Gomhouria goes beyond the ambassador's views."

The ambassador said that where human rights are violated by Israeli authorities, we disapprove."

But he told the Associated Press: "At the same time, the American administration has to realize that it has interests and individuals who will not be excluded from our response to the American policy which has demonstrated continuous racial hostility against the Palestinian people."

U.S. electronic warfare ship prepares for Gulf duty

ABOARD THE USS TICONDEROGA IN THE ARABIAN SEA (R) — The officers of this cruiser spent hours before dawn last Tuesday (Dec. 15) rehearsing their role in the weeks ahead, when the ship will be an electronic eye for groups of U.S. ships escorting oil tankers through the Strait of Hormuz.

It made little difference to the skipper and his officers that the exercise took place under starlight — visibility never varies around the technicolor displays of the combat control room where this guided missile ship's commanders work.

The Ticonderoga, which arrived in these waters early this month, is distinguished from other U.S. ships in the region mainly by its command suite, the most sophisticated of any class of naval ships in the world.

A group of reporters were allowed aboard the ship this week.

In the darkened room near the ship's bridge, four immense luminescent displays project maps showing everything that moves in the air, on the water, or beneath the sea in the operating areas of 30 or so U.S. ships that provide protection for Kuwaiti tankers and other merchant ships flying American colours.

At the push of a button, commanders can take a look at any of the hot spots where Iran and Iraq almost daily carry out raids against merchant shipping.

The Ticonderoga, which has banks of mainframe computers below decks processing ceaseless streams of data, shares tactical information with almost every other ship in the region as well as with high-flying early warning and surveillance aircraft monitoring the Gulf.

"There is so much out there, and there is so much presented to you, that it can overload you and literally trip you out," said Capt. James Arrison, commanding officer of the Aegis class cruiser.

Aegis, which is Greek for shield, is the navy's name for the ship's air defence system. Centred on a huge four-faced radar, whose flat octagonal antennae rise like billboards on the ship's superstructure, the system manages the air space around the cruiser to distances of hundreds of miles.

The revelation could damage Mr. Bush's standing in the presidential race by undermining his claim to foreign policy expertise and identifying him with what the American public regards as a monumental failure.

Adm. Poindexter's Feb. 1 note also says that William Casey, then director of the Central Intelligence Agency, Donald Reagan, then White House chief of staff, Attorney General Edwin Meese and Adm. Poindexter were "fully on board this risky operation."

It reports as well an assertion by Iranian middleman Manucher Ghorbanifar that the Ayatollah Khomeini would step down shortly and the hostages soon would be released.

In a December 1986 speech, less than a month after the arms sales became public, Mr. Bush became the first top administration official to acknowledge that the administration made mistakes in dealing with Iran.

But he never spelled out what those errors were.

"I was aware of our initiative and I support the president's decision," he said at that time.

He stated then, and has said so repeatedly since, that he opposed any swap of arms for hostages.

Bonn MP in Beirut to discuss hostages

BEIRUT (AP) — A West German official arrived Saturday for talks with Lebanese officials on the plight of a German hostage, kidnapped 11 months ago in mainly Muslim west Beirut, and bilateral relations.

Hans Sterken, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the German Bundestag, or parliament, held talks on arrival with President Amin Gemayel at the presidential palace in the Christian suburb of Baabda.

Mr. Sterken, who also heads the International Parliamentary Union, was expected to cross the city's dividing "green line" later in the day for talks with opposition leaders in west Beirut.

A spokesman for the Lebanese Foreign Ministry said Mr. Sterken would raise with Lebanese officials the "question of West German hostage Rudolf Cordes" and relations between Bonn and Beirut.

Cordes, 53, a businessman was kidnapped in west Beirut on Jan. 17, 1987. An underground faction, the Holy Fighters for Freedom, has claimed his abduction.

The group is believed linked to Iran, which supports Shi'ite Muslim Lebanese fundamentalists, who are holding most of the 21

U.S. approves joint helicopter project with Israel

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon has notified Congress it had approved a joint development programme with Israel that will lead to production of a new night targeting system for AH-1 Cobra helicopter gunships.

Assuming there are no congressional objections, the Pentagon said Israel would bear one-third of the cost of the programme — or \$62 million — while the United States would pay for the remaining two-thirds, or \$124 million.

The contractual agreement calls for joint development and co-production of the new air-to-ground targeting system, with 40 of the devices ultimately to be built for Israel and 80 for the U.S. Marine Corps.

The prime contractor will be Tamam Precision Instruments Industries, a division of Israeli Aircraft Industries Ltd. of Yahud, Israel, the Pentagon added.

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WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

- "Documenta" — art exhibition at the Goethe Institute (until Dec. 23)
- An exhibition of paintings by Ahmad Nashashibi at the Alia Art Gallery - Jabbal Amman (until Dec. 20)
- "Sun" painting by Hans Sautel at 4001 P.m. at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation (until Dec. 25)
- An art exhibition in Samu Mashesh at the Spanish Cultural Centre - Jabbal Amman (until Dec. 31)
- An art exhibition entitled "The Architect of Mamluk Jerusalem" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts in cooperation with the British Council (until Dec. 30)

CULTURAL CENTRES

- Royal Cultural Centre - Tel. 661027
- American Centre - 664371
- British Council - 661428
- French Cultural Centre - 661008
- Goethe Institute - 661003
- Soviet Cultural Centre - 661003
- Spanish Cultural Centre - 661003
- Turkish Cultural Centre - 661003
- Yahud Arts Centre - 661003
- Y.W.C.A. - 661003
- Y.M.C.A. - 661003
- Y.M.W.A. - 661003
- Y.M.W.A. - 661003
- Y.M.W.A. - 661003

MUSEUMS

- "Children's Heritage and Science Museum" - Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Hajj Arts Centre. Open all week 9.30 a.m. - 3.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. - 6.30 p.m. Closed on Friday.
- Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also movies from Madaba and Jerash (19th century). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round.
- Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabbal Al Qal'a (Citadel). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.

SERVICE CLUBS

- The Amman Lions Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Regency Palace hotel, 7.30 p.m.
- Lebanese Philatelic Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7.30 p.m.
- Philatelic Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 7.30 p.m.
- Royal Automobile Club. Jabbal Amman. Eighth Circle. Tel. 816534, 817334.

CHURCHES

- St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Amman. Tel. 624500
- Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Lubdub. Tel. 637440
- De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Hussein. Tel. 661757
- Terrassant Church (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Lubdub. Mass in Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5.30 p.m. Tel. 622500
- Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali. Tel. 623541
- Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabbal Amman. Tel. 625383
- Chaplain's residence. Tel. 661359
- Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh. Tel. 771331
- Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh. Tel. 775361
- St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh. Tel. 771331
- Armenian International Church (Interdenominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani. Tel. 677534
- Evangelical Lutheran Church (Church of the Good Shepherd) Amman. Arabic Service: Sunday 7 p.m. Rev. N. Smir 811295
- Rainbow Congregation (meets at the Good Shepherd's Church) Interdenominational-cum-ecumenical English Service: Saturday 6.30 p.m. Tel. 82405, Rev. Veli
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon) Tel. 815-817, 821-264

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. 1081 32003, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

ROYAL JORDANIAN (RJ) FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

- 09:15 Agaba (RJ)
- 09:30 Amman (RJ)
- 09:45 Beirut (RJ)
- 09:55 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
- 10:00 Doha, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
- 10:15 Cairo (RJ)
- 10:30 Brunei (RJ)
- 10:45 London (RJ)
- 10:55 Agaba (RJ)
- 11:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
- 11:15 Paris (RJ)
- 11:30 Frankfurt (RJ)
- 11:45 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)
- 11:55 Brunei, Geneva (RJ)
- 12:00 Madrid, Rome (RJ)
- 12:15 Baghdad (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

- 09:00 Berlin (LF)
- 09:35 Cairo (MS)
- 11:20 Damascus (AZ)
- 11:45 Kuwait (LN)
- 12:45 Sharjah, Doha (GF)
- 12:55 Jeddah (SV)
- 13:40 Kuwait (KU)
- 16:35 Athens (OA)
- 16:55 Beirut (ME)
- 17:00 Frankfurt (LF)
- 17:05 Cairo (MS)
- 00:25 London, Cairo (BA)

DEPARTURES

ROYAL JORDANIAN (RJ) FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

- 06:05 Brussels (RJ)
- 07:00 Agaba (RJ)
- 07:10 Vienna, New York (RJ)
- 07:20 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
- 12:30 Cairo (RJ)
- 14:00 Kuwait, Doha (RJ)
- 14:15 Doha, Muscat (RJ)
- 14:30 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
- 14:45 Baghdad (RJ)
- 15:00 Jeddah (SV)
- 16:35 Athens (OA)
- 16:55 Beirut (ME)
- 17:00 Frankfurt (LF)
- 17:05 Cairo (MS)
- 00:25 London, Cairo (BA)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

- 06:20 Frankfurt (LF)
- 09:00 Damascus (AZ)
- 10:00 Berlin (LF)
- 10:20 Cairo (MS)
- 12:20 Rome (AZ)
- 13:00 Tripoli (LN)
- 13:45 Bahrain, Sharjah (GF)
- 14:40 Jeddah (SV)
- 15:00 Kuwait (KU)
- 17:30 Athens (OA)
- 20:00 Santa Sofia (LN)
- 21:50 Cairo (MS)

PRAYER TIMES

- 05:40 Fajr
- 06:20 Sunrise
- 11:33 Dhuhr
- 14:17 Asr
- 16:38 Maghrib
- 18:02 Isha

WEATHER

Bulked supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be cloudy to cloudy, with chances for scattered showers associated with thunder activities at times. A drop in temperature is expected. Winds will be southerly to moderate. In Agaba, it will be partly cloudy, with chances for showers and rough seas.

Min/Max temp.

Agaba 7/11

Deserts 12/17

Jerusalem 6/12

Jordan Valley 11/19

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 12, Agaba 19, Irbid 19, Amman 12, Agaba 19.

MONEY EXCHANGE

- Upper/lower price in Jds per US dollar
- Apple (different kinds) 341/350
- Apple (French) 340/350
- Banana 350/360
- Banana (Mukamari) 301/341
- Beans 150/160
- Beef (head) 220/240
- Beef (steak) 220/240
- Cabbage 60/40
- Carrot 200/240
- Cauliflower 200/240
- Cucumber 200/240
- Dates (box) 1200/1000
- Eggplant (large) 70/40
- Eggplant (small) 130/100
- Garlic 401/300

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

- Amman government 891238
- Amman Civil Defence 198, 199
- Civil Defence Irbid 271203, 27



Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday tours an exhibition depicting Mamluk architecture at the Royal Society of Fine Arts (Petra photo)

Queen opens exhibition

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday afternoon opened an exhibition entitled "Mamluk Architecture of Jerusalem" at the National Gallery in Amman.

Among those present were Princess Wijdan, president of the Royal Society of Fine Arts and Mrs. Zaid Rifa'i.

The exhibition celebrates the publication of Mamluk Jerusalem, a definitive architectural study made possible by the support and generosity of Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor.

Mouuted by the Royal Society of Fine Arts and the British Council in cooperation with the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem, the exhibitions contain 18 panels, each drawn from the book.

The book, written by Michael Burgoyne, draws together survey and recording work that has gone on since 1968 when the late Dame Kathleen Kenyon proposed the project. Dr. Archibald Walls started the first pilot scheme and was joined in 1969 by Michael Burgoyne, who made it his doctoral dissertation. Dr. Donald Richards added historical research after 1983.

Throughout these years, the Muslim authorities in Jerusalem and Amman have given essential support.

The book documents in great detail the architectural richness fostered by the Mamluk Sultans during their long rule in Jerusalem from 1244 to 1517 A.D. The monuments are still part of

the living urban texture of Jerusalem, especially in the northern and Western approaches to the Haram.

Centuries of protection in the Holy City have preserved them for posterity and the authors propose that the best way to guarantee their conservation is to promote their continued use.

The Old City of Jerusalem is one of the best preserved medieval Islamic cities. The Mamluks built a rich variety of religious and civil structures that testify to their high degree of sophistication and social conscience. They built a school for orphans (Mamluk Aytam) a hospital (Maristans) drinking fountains (sabils) convents (Khanqahs) abodes for holy men (Zawiyas) schools for the Traditions of the Prophet (Dar Al Hadith) Koranic schools (Dar Al Quran) as well as local mosques (masajid).

All of these were supported by philanthropic foundations (waqf) which also provided income to maintain the Dome of the Rock and the Aqsa Mosque. Income came from caravanserais (Khan) markets (Suqs and Qaysiriyas) a warehouse (wakala) and baths (hamams).

Each of these buildings appear in the book, carefully measured, described and photographed. They will serve to educate the world at large not only in the architectural heritage of Mamluk Jerusalem but also in the Mamluks' sense of civic responsibility for the sites and people of the Holy City.

Crown Prince cites need for objectivity in journalism

Raising Jordanian standards will create jobs, reliability and confidence

By Nermeen Murad
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has stressed the need for raising, expanding and developing the journalism sector based on objectivity in seeking the truth and dealing with the various current issues. Prince Hassan referred to foreign media campaigns directed at Arab countries on the international level and stressed the need to "absorb these campaigns and counteract," in order to be able to confront harmful campaigns with "ideas equal in value and effectiveness."

He added that Jordan can, through its "highly skilled manpower" and through its media and press, develop "pre-emptive counter information campaigns to deal with hostile propaganda."

In an address to a symposium on Saturday on unemployment of media graduates delivered on his behalf by Dr. Mohammad Hamdan, president of Yarmouk University, Prince Hassan said that he believes that there is a need for "upgrading the level of journalistic work in Jordan for it to be taken more seriously."

Following is Prince Hassan's speech:

Dear brothers and sisters, It is my pleasure to meet today with a group of Jordanian youth employed in the field of information, journalism and science of communication. This conference is extremely important as it will discuss various aspects of problems related to the graduates of departments of journalism.

Let me at first say that the problem of unemployment among journalists should be tackled from a viewpoint of expanding and developing journalism so it can become a distinguished sector capable of enlargement within Jordan and abroad with a prospect to absorb more numbers of graduates and other people working in journalism.

Over the past two years and on frequent occasions I met with several Jordanian journalists and heard from them complaints concentrating on the question of giving the journalists access to officials to take their views on current issues. I also remarked that journalists are faced with the difficulty in obtaining information needed for their reports.

Discussions with journalists also focused on complaints that Jordanians are being discriminated against by officials and receive different treatment in comparison with foreign journalists.

I am convinced that these issues can be dealt with through raising the standard of journalists' work and the journalism profession in Jordan to enable it to be taken more seriously by officials.

In the first place, I would like to refer to the role of the Jordanian Journalists Association (JJA).

The new JJA law, in my view, projects to a large extent the aspirations of journalists in the country. Although I am convinced that the standard of journalism in Jordan is good com-

pared with other countries, I believe that nothing has been done since the JJA's establishment towards improving and raising the profession's standard.

I am also unaware of any effort on the part of the JJA to achieve that objective.

Therefore, I hope that the JJA will make a study on the hindrances of journalistic improvement before laying down an organised and able programme for invigorating the advancement of the JJA's role, especially that it represents journalists who are employed to work for others as well as the owners of newspapers in Jordan.

We live in an era where journalism deeply influences thoughts, ideas and conceptions and, at the same time, serves as a window through which the public can have access to various world events. For this reason, we ought to develop the concepts of journalism in our country in the political, economic, cultural and scientific spheres.

You may have noticed the emergence of numerous ideas in the Jordanian arena recently coinciding with major political events like the extraordinary Arab summit meeting and the subsequent meetings and flurry of activities like discussions on joint Arab coordination, national and pan-Arab course of action, regional cooperation, the international conference and pan-Arab food and social security. I should remind you that development in the event itself runs faster than the development of ideas revolving about it and, thus, journalism is one of the basic channels that are capable of formulating the ideas, thoughts and underlying implications.

I believe creative work in this particular field journalism still awaits development.

No doubt you all realise the developments in our region and the information and media campaigns being directed at our countries on the international level. We ought to absorb these campaigns and counteract. We should be able to confront harmful campaigns with forceful ideas equal in value and effectiveness.

Jordan, which boasts highly skilled manpower, can, through its media and press, counter the campaigns and refute them at the national and pan-Arab levels and also can develop pre-emptive counter-information campaigns to deal with hostile propaganda. It is wrong to believe that

journalistic writing of exciting and negative criticism promotes the circulation of newspapers.

The press should have its own credibility through adopting a well-defined, balanced and integrated informational course that can reflect its image in the medium and long-term and give credence to Jordan's centrism which has proved to be the right course in times of emergency and divisions in the nation's ranks.

I do not want to create the impression that I call on the press to give support for all official decisions simply because excessive praise and support without justification can only lead to the same effect resulting from negative information campaigns.

We should not forget that Jordanian citizens are dynamic, seeking information even while living abroad. For this reason, one should be careful in addressing Jordanian expatriates who are craving to know about the developments in their country as they are also interested in our news and information at home.

There is quite a good number of Jordanian journalists who work as correspondents for newspapers, news agencies and radio stations abroad. These journalists sometimes face a dilemma in performing their role. They, on the one hand, cannot forget about their country's issues and problems and, on the other hand, they have to abide by commitments imposed on them by their employers.

I believe that following an objective course in dealing with various issues and seeking the truth are sufficient means to help guide these journalists in their work. It should be noted that in the final analysis Jordan will benefit much more by their stating the truth because this country's stands are quite clear to all and contain no contradictions.

For this reason, I believe such journalists should be specially distinguished in their work because their success means opening the door for employment for many of their countrymen and colleagues in the field of journalism.

There are those journalists who do not actually practice journalism but specialise in writing columns and this group of people are capable of distinguishing one newspaper from another because it is noteworthy that while the sources of news are similar, expounding news and highlighting developments and discerning their attitudes requires scrutiny and could influence the readers' thinking.

Ability to analyse news for the press requires constant training and I believe that graduates of the journalism departments are most capable of delving into this field. Jordanian newspapers should help journalists in general, and journalism graduates in particular, to have access to decision-makers and intellectuals not only in the search for news or commentary but also on a constant and regular basis. This should be conducted through an institutional framework sponsored by the JJA similar to practices conducted by press clubs in many countries of the world. This course of training opens a channel of communication and dialogue between men of the press and officials and intellectuals and is bound to create regular relationships that can facilitate the journalists' tasks.

Journalism is a profession like any other professions and therefore it requires constant training and development. But I know of no training programme for our journalists after graduating from university so they can develop their talents and become creative. The new journalists are in need of

practice in this difficult profession so that they can grasp sufficient potential to produce effective journalistic writings in form and content. Don't you think that such a training programme is essential? If it is so, what should be its code, its principles and its conduct? I call on the JJA through this conference to help out a programme that can help the new graduates to interact and get training at the hands of professional journalists so that we can develop in the minds of the new graduates the desire for attaining knowledge and impart to them the elements necessary for their profession. Such training programmes are bound to make information media more capable of influencing the educational programmes at the department of journalism in Yarmouk University. Therefore one should regard the process of university education and field training as one constant line leading to the creation of distinguished journalists who can find employment locally, regionally and internationally and can open for the new graduates wide scopes and at the same time offer them access to the profession of journalism.

This point leads me to tackle another issue which is no less important than training itself. What I mean is dealing and conducting among journalists themselves and between the journalists and society.

The profession of medicine has its own code of conduct. Why shouldn't there be another code and constitution for journalism to help journalists to have confidence in themselves and qualifying them to work everywhere?

In order to contribute to the development of the journalism profession and at the highest possible level we ought to admit that the acquisition of informa-

tion and news is essential. What prevents us from setting up a centre for information that can serve all journalists? Such a centre will no doubt open new scopes for journalists to embark on research and analysing news and information and can lead to improving the profession itself. This centre can also absorb new graduates, offering them employment.

Daily newspapers with so many pages have become important sources of information and ideas for many people. The press and newspapers are not confined any more to conveying news. In this age, the age of informational revolution, the press has become a general profession and has its own fields of specialisations. The Jordanian press sector has expanded to a degree that specialisation has become possible. We ought to work towards raising the standard of our press by opening the way for specialised writing in the press and this can open more opportunities for employment. I believe there are signs that this is going to be the attitude, though on a narrow scale, at the beginning, especially in economic, scientific and informational fields. But what we need is generalising this idea of specialisation at all levels and in sectors covered by the press.

Work in information fields is an integrated task, although its mechanism sometimes differs in nature and means. There is an obvious difference between radio, television and the press and each has its own audience and potentials. But this difference calls on us to find a way for integrating them — the three means of information media — perhaps through exchanging expertise, personnel and interdependence in a planned manner that seeks to achieve positive results.

NEWS IN BRIEF



Masri honours Japanese ambassador

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri hosted a banquet on Saturday at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel in honour of Mr. Akira Nakayama, Japan's ambassador in Amman, on the occasion of the end of his term of office in Jordan. Mr. Masri paid tribute to relations between Jordan and Japan and to Mr. Nakayama's role in strengthening these relations. Mr. Nakayama, on his part, praised the existing relations between the two friendly countries. The banquet was attended by Foreign Ministry Secretary General Nahli Al Nimr, senior ministry officials, dean of the diplomatic corps in Jordan as well as a number of Arab and foreign ambassadors accredited to Jordao.

New cold front expected today

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan is currently under the effect of an atmospheric depression centering south of Cyprus and therefore rain is expected to fall in most regions of the Kingdom and floods may form in a number of low regions, according to Dr. Ali Abanda, director of the Department of Meteorology. He said that the depression will affect Jordan, along with other countries in the East Mediterranean, for 24 hours bringing in cold wind and thunderous rain. The cold wind, he said, is moving towards this region from northern Europe. According to the Public Security Department (PSD) poor visibility hit the central and southern regions of Jordan due to thick fog on Saturday. The department asked motorists to take extra care while driving in these regions.



Lanvin regional meeting concludes

AMMAN — Lanvin distributors from all over the Middle East ended their regional meeting on Friday Dec. 18 and approved the 1988 strategies.

Distributors met with Mr. Marc Kapustin and Mr. Guy Caunac from Lanvin Paris, and with Intermarkets' general mana-

gers to discuss the 1988 marketing and advertising strategies.

Some of the strategies include a unified campaign to run throughout the Middle East. 1988 will mark the 100th birthday for Lanvin, and to promote this, Lanvin will be investing more in the Middle East.

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No. 1814083

I hereby certify that

JORDAN FINANCE CONSORTIUM PLC

having by special resolution changed its name,

is now incorporated under the name of
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL BANK plc

Given under my hand at the Companies

Registration Office, Cardiff on

8 DECEMBER 1987

Ernst & Young
D. G. BLACKSTOCK
an authorised officer

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Jordan Times

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Putting our house in order

YESTERDAY'S eight-hour debate at the Lower House of Parliament has sharpened the focus on our economic and political shortcomings and has reminded us of where we stand today in terms of economic resources management and political maturity.

No doubt, the deputies who made their voices heard in unequivocal terms have drawn their conclusions from the man on the street, who is most affected by dramatic changes in the national economy and fluctuations in the political climate. At the same time, the deputies, who endorsed next year's budget, have also taken the opportunity to reflect a measure of frustration with being mute witnesses to Israel's oppressive and inhuman practices against our Arab brethren in the occupied West Bank and Gaza. It is indeed an unbearable situation when all we could do is lodging diplomatic protests and seeking help from the international community in the face of an organised campaign of oppression and persecution against our kinsmen a few kilometres away.

The frankness of thought and the bold expression of views on the varied policy issues permeated Saturday's session and pushed us forward to new and healthy levels. At almost every juncture in their speeches, the deputies expressed their solidarity with their brethren labouring under the atrocious conditions of the Israeli occupation and subjugation.

However, our evident helplessness should serve as another reminder that we have a long way to go before we could move from the stage of words to decisive action to put an end to the plight of the Palestinian people and heal the festering sore in our region. Towards that end, the first step is putting our house in order. Reclamations and accusations or efforts at passing the buck are not the answer. What we need is a combined common understanding that it is the fate of our country that is at stake and it is the duty of every one of us to work together to correct past mistakes and resume our march for progress.

Our nation has a long history of surviving many major crises and the same spirit that prevailed and helped us overcome all past hurdles should be resurrected. Only through an atmosphere of harmony and dedication to the common cause of economic and political stability could we move towards achieving the goal of strengthening our country and nation.

Our parliamentarians were not speaking in a void when they put their fingers on the causes of our weaknesses and divisions. Understanding our shortcomings is the first step towards realising our strength.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: House committee praises budget

THE financial committee of the Lower House of Parliament has endorsed the draft budget of 1988 and recommended that the House ratify it at Saturday's session. The committee's decision translates the national and pan-Arab commitment to which Jordan adheres in the light of the principles and directives laid down by the King who has been striving at all fronts to bolster the Kingdom's defences and protect its gains in the face of external threats and numerous challenges. The financial committee which paid tribute to the King for leading the Arabs to a successful summit where consensus and agreement were reached on all issues, said that the summit served as a first step towards a new era in inter-Arab relations. The committee also praised the King's efforts in enhancing the armed forces and in directing the government towards reconstruction and development; and gave total support to the King's endeavours for supporting the steadfastness of the Arab people in the occupied lands. The committee was unanimous in paying tribute to the heroic struggle of the Palestinian people for freedom from Israeli rule and said that resisting enemy practices was a legitimate exercise for all nations and peoples seeking freedom and justice. The committee recommended that the government carry on with its efforts to extend support for the Palestinian people under Israeli rule and at the same time continue building up the armed forces, the people's army and public security which it said should go along with the process of development in social and economic fields.

Al Dustour: Lessons from Palestine

AS reactions to the events in the occupied territories continue from around the world and as criticism of Israel's atrocities intensifies, world nations have come to realise the following facts: First, that what is happening inside the occupied Arab lands is a popular revolt and not a mere bout of unrest like that witnessed over the past 20 years. Yesterday which marked the 11th day in the current revolt underlined this fact more than at any time in the past. Second, the uprising has exposed the true face of the Israelis and their racist nature, described by foreign news agencies as reflecting that of the racist regime in Pretoria in its arbitrary rule against the blacks of South Africa. Third, that the Israelis lust for blood and their tendency towards bloodshed deprived Israel from those remaining voices that used to support the Jewish state's actions in the occupied regions. Fourth, that the uprising in the face of injustice and repression has now won the support and the positive response of Arab people living in occupied Palestine since 1948. These people have now come to the open, supporting their brothers in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and showing total solidarity with their cause and their struggle for freedom.

Sawt Al Shaab: Facts about resistance

THE current repressive measures against the Palestinian people under Israeli rule reflect the following: First, that Israel which relies on its armed force believes that its weapons will help it achieve its far-reaching goals through committing acts of terrorism, genocide and aggression and massacring the Palestinian people in their homeland. Second, that the current wave of terrorism against the Arab people has exposed Israel's aggressive nature to the whole world, and its lust for continued expansion. Third, that the Palestinian people under occupation rule will never surrender and capitulate in the face of Israel's atrocities and will continue to seek freedom. Fourth, that the Arab Nation which was unified at the Amman Arab summit is now confronted with a test: and calls on Arab states to speedily extend all forms of help and assistance to their brothers in the occupied land.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Minimum wages breed more unemployment

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

MANY voices are demanding the imposition of a minimum wage level, or the raising of this minimum to JD 70 or 80 a month. The Ministry of Labour and Social Development has been quoted as saying that the minimum wage was currently under consideration, and that a decision might be announced shortly.

We strongly oppose the adoption of a minimum wage level. If one does exist we oppose its activation in the present unemployment environment. We don't take this position in defence of employers, rather, we take it in defence of the workers themselves.

Our argument is based on the following:
First: Once a minimum daily or monthly wage is adopted it would immediately become the normal wage for any new worker. Employers will hold to this minimum and argue that it is a fair wage in accordance with the law, while at least 95 per cent of the workers take home more than the minimum.

Second: If the imposed minimum was higher than the level which otherwise would be freely determined by supply and demand in the labour market, which is the purpose for having a legal minimum wage, it will lead to unemployment. Employers are under no legal obligation to employ. Higher wages make a strong incentive to reduce the number of workers. Naturally higher prices must reduce demand. The demand for labour is no exception. Therefore the imposition of minimum wage is a guaranteed prescription for

increased unemployment.

Third: If the minimum wage was lower than the wage otherwise determined by the market forces it would work as a penalty against workers who would get more in the absence of the fixed minimum.

Fourth: Minimum wages policies are normally applicable to lower workers groups, such as the very old, the very young, the handicapped, and those with little or no experience or training. Employers will normally refuse those groups if they have to pay them higher salaries. The minimum wage level hurts the very groups that it is meant to help. The most deprived and the weakest in the society who deserve support will be the natural victims of such a policy.

Fifth: The imposition of minimum wages may be beneficial to low-income earners who are already securely employed in a stable establishment. They may get more in the form of cash wages but the employers will reduce or eliminate certain fringe benefits, and that would worsen the working conditions and that the workers would end up as losers. The unemployed who are the most deserving of assistance do not benefit at all.

Sixth: As a result of all the above factors, the imposition of minimum wages may benefit a small number of workers already employed, but it will reduce the overall number of employed, and consequently reduce the national payroll. The real interest of the

working class lies in drawing the maximum amount of wages for all the salaried people, not to increase the pay of those who are working at the expense of keeping more workers without wages at all.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Development would be well advised to dismiss the idea of minimum wages. The priority at this time should be the creation of more jobs to face the growing unemployment and not to increase wages which will not be justified except through improved productivity.

One crucial question should be answered before deciding on the minimum wage policy: Would this minimum be applicable to all classes of workers irrespective of whether they are engineers, clerks, typists, or camp guards, or would the ministry come up with a minimum for each and every specific job? Would the minimum take into account the age of the worker, his or her experience, education, working circumstances etc., or would these factors be irrelevant to the minimum wage that it won't be fair?

Those who call for the imposition of minimum wages in Jordan (and elsewhere) would like to appear as defenders of the working class interest. Actually they are either ignorant or seekers of cheap popularity. In both cases they are enemies of the real interests of the workers.

Focus of Palestinian revolt shifts to Jerusalem

(Continued from page 1)

Arabs, compared with about 320,000 Jews in west Jerusalem and outlying areas.

Thousands of Israeli Arabs gathered in Nazareth in a rally of solidarity for the residents of the occupied territories. They called for the creation of a Palestinian state alongside Israel. A general strike of Israel's 800,000 Arab citizens has been called for Monday.

A military spokesman said demonstrations also occurred on Saturday in the West Bank towns of Qalqilya, Jenin and Hebron, with protesters pelting troops with stones and bottles.

The Palestine Press Service said two Arabs were wounded when troops opened fire to disperse a protest near the West Bank town of Bethlehem.

In the Gaza Strip, the focus of much of the recent violence, Arab protesters burnt tyres and threw stones. In the Jabaliya refugee camp in Gaza City, soldiers used tear-gas to disperse protesters who threw stones and raised the Palestinian flag.

Near Nablus, the army imposed a curfew on the Balata and Askar refugee camps after protesters broke out in both areas, an army spokesman said. Troops used tear-gas to disperse the protesters, he said.

On Arab Jerusalem's central Salehaddin street, police fired hundreds of tear-gas canisters to disperse crowds of protesters who were throwing stones, erecting barricades and shouting anti-Israeli slogans.

A senior police officer at the scene said Saturday's protests were the worst in Jerusalem since 1976 when residents protested in sympathy with Israeli Arabs demonstrating against land seizures in Galilee.

Israeli Radio, meanwhile, reported that Israel's supreme court had ordered an inquiry into the death on Thursday of a Palestinian, Anwar Abu Samahadna, from bullet wounds received from Israeli troops after he stabbed a soldier.

The radio quoted eyewitnesses as saying Samahadna was shot in the legs after slightly wounding the soldier on Wednesday and was taken to an Israeli hospital. He died in hospital the next morning, but the cause of death was not stated on his death certificate, the radio said.

Protests continue in Lebanon

Thousands of Palestinians and Lebanese protested throughout Lebanon for a second day on Saturday against Israel's killing of Palestinian demonstrators in the occupied territories.

An estimated 4,000 men, women and children marched through the northern city of Tripoli, chanting slogans against Israel.

Thousands of Palestinians staged sit-ins at four refugee camps near the southern port of Tyre to protest at the Israeli killing of Palestinians.

A general strike paralysed the southern city of Sidon and the nearby refugee camps of 'Ain Al Hilweh and Mich Mich. Demonstrations continued for a second day in west Beirut.

The pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) movement mounted a show of force against Israel in Beirut's southern suburbs on Friday.

In Sidon, an official of the Amal militia said it would free all Palestinians taken prisoner in three years of fighting around Lebanon's refugee camps.

Atel Aoun said the move was "a gift to the struggling Palestinian people paying the price of defending their nation with their

blood" in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

He did not give a date for the release or say how many Palestinians Amal held. Officials at Amal headquarters in west Beirut were not available to confirm the report.

Palestinian sources in Sidon said the militia, led by Justice Minister Nabih Berri, was holding at least 150 Palestinians captured in the "camps war" in Beirut and the south.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Charles Redman reiterated on Friday the Reagan administration's call for restraint in dealing with the continuing violence in the occupied

Mubarak receives King's message

(Continued from page 1)

the West Bank and Gaza and accused Israel of violating the human rights of Palestinian inhabitants.

Another government statement, issued later Saturday said President Hosni Mubarak strongly resents Israel's "methods of repression and persecution" and the indiscriminate shooting of Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

"President Hosni Mubarak and the Egyptian people have followed the bloody events taking place in the occupied Arab territories of Gaza and the West Bank with deep concern and strong resentment," the statement said. "This is because Israel is using methods of repression and persecution, showing no regard for the lives of innocent people—old men, women and children—and violating its international obligations in a grievous manner that threatens the Middle East peace process."

Three earlier statements from the Foreign Ministry were issued last Saturday, Tuesday and Friday. The wording has been progressively harsher.

The latest statement accused Israel of defying the international community and said its forces have been "opening fire indiscriminately on civilians."

West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"What we have seen again underscores the need for both sides to exercise restraint and avoid confrontations and work to change the prevailing atmosphere, which is one of tension and mutual distrust," the spokesman said.

Earlier this week, he made it clear the U.S. was urging both Israel and the Palestinian population of the occupied territories to back away from confrontations.

However, the spokesman emphasised that he would not "get into the habit of characterising the nature and extent of diplomatic contacts, in any case," when one reporter asked if the

United States was in daily contact with Israeli authorities concerning the situation.

"I would only note in a more general sense that we have always counselled avoiding the use of lethal means in circumstances such as this in the West Bank and Gaza," Redman said.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said President Reagan was "very concerned about events in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank."

"Our position is, as you know, the hope that direct negotiations between the parties there could relieve tensions between Israel and its Arab neighbours," the spokesman told reporters.

Security Council postpones vote

(Continued from page 1)

states sought to retain the toughest possible language.

The original draft, sponsored by the council's non-aligned members, would condemn "those policies and practices of Israel... which violate the human rights of the Palestinian people."

The draft would call on Israel to abide scrupulously by the Geneva convention on the treatment of civilians in time of war, and stress the urgent need to reach a just, durable and peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, under the auspices of the United Nations.

The draft would also request Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to examine the present situation in the occupied territories by all means available to him, including the appointment of a special representative, and to report back to the council by Jan. 20 on measures necessary to ensure the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilians under Israeli occupation.

The proposed changes include substitution of the phrase "strongly deplore" for "condemn" and elimination of the reference to a U.N. special representative.

Britain told the council on Friday the use of force by Israel in the occupied territories had been excessive and contravened provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention on the Treatment of Civilians in Time of War.

"In our view, on the evidence available to us, the use of force by

the occupation authorities has been excessive and has clearly contravened the requirement placed upon the occupying power by Article 27 of the convention that all protected persons be treated humanely at all times," British Representative Crispin Tickell said.

"The tragedy of what is now happening in Gaza and elsewhere in the occupied territories underlines the need for urgent efforts to achieve 'a peaceful settlement,' the British envoy said.

"In the meantime, we urge all concerned to do their utmost to put an end to the violence which has claimed so many lives."

As the Security Council met on Friday, pro-Palestinian demonstrators shouted slogans and unfurled banners outside the council's visitors' gallery.

"Stop killing Palestinian people. End the occupation," they chanted.

There were brief scuffles as U.N. guards snatched up placards carrying slogans such as: "Israel stop killing Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza."

The demonstration momentarily spilled over into the Security Council gallery, Mr. Tickell remarked in mid-speech:

"A little local colour I don't think helps our debate."

The demonstrators were bundled out of the building after about 15 minutes.

A pamphlet handed out by one organiser said they represented "the Palestinian community and the Palestine Solidarity Movement in New York."

House endorses 1988 budget

(Continued from page 1)

ready to introduce slight austerity measures to achieve savings without sacrificing the country's needs and to curb public spending.

The prime minister's remarks were in reply to a report by the House's Financial Committee and speeches by 24 deputies who voiced concern over the country's growing debt which is estimated to equal 15 per cent of national exports.

The deputies also criticised what they viewed as "a luxurious" style adopted by government departments which "own expensive machines, equipments and cars." According to Amman Deputy Sheikh Abdul Baqi Qamo, the cars owned by one government department were enough to "cover the combined needs of all the government departments."

Mr. Rifai said that researchers were preparing a study on equipment and vehicles owned by the various ministries and departments and the government would act accordingly to avoid extra spending. "But most of the machinery and cars are used in the field," he noted.

Some deputies criticised the low standards and quality of local industries which have benefitted from the government's protectionist policies and measures.

Mr. Rifai said that the government would not drop its protectionist measures but these policies were "temporary" to boost local industries and protect them from unfair foreign competition.

The prime minister also disagreed with some deputies' remarks that the allocations in the budget were not related to the allocations in the 1986-1990 five-year development plan for the East Bank. "The allocations for developmental projects correspond to and equal the funds allocated for developmental projects in the third year of the plan," he said.

The committee's report called on the government to reduce the JD 11 million allocated to fund feasibility studies by foreign consultative companies for big projects.

The committee also urged the government to increase its reliance on local consultative firms. But Mr. Rifai explained that the government was compelled to

hire foreign firms when the concerned projects were financed by foreign institutions. However the prime minister added that the government depends on local firms when the projects are financed by local and public funds.

In general, the deputies supported the government's objectives to strengthen the Armed Forces and the security services and to support the people in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Most West Bank deputies as well as a big number of East Bank representatives urged the government to increase allocations for the five-year development programme for the Israeli-occupied territories.

Ramallah Deputy Nicola Akel questioned the allocations and claimed that only JD 2 million had been received by the people inside the territories as part of the programme allocations. He asked the government to explain the way the money was spent.

Two West Bank deputies supported a European Community (EC) decision to buy agricultural products directly from Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza.

Bethlehem Deputy Edward Khamis urged the government to "connect telephone lines with the occupied territories to enable people to talk to their relatives."


He noted that an Israeli company is currently connecting phone lines via Europe between the occupied territories and Arab capitals.

"Do you consider that connecting phone lines with the occupied territories as a normalisation of relations (with Israel); if that is so, then what about what the Israeli company is doing... isn't it a de facto normalisation (relations)," he asked.

A number of deputies, including Abdullah Al Akailah, Riyad Al Nawaiseh, Yousef Al Adem Daoud, Tameh Daoud, Fouad Faraj, and Leith Shbeilat, called for expansion of democratic freedoms and a freer press.

The deputies criticised some practices by the General Intelligence Department especially those preventing people from work or travel.

"It is wrong to fight people in their livelihood," Dr. Akailah said. He urged the government to introduce laws that can control and prevent such measures.



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Deputies take time off from budget debate to address political and social issues

Representatives hail Palestinian uprising and call on government to ease unemployment, extend help to West Bank, control excesses by security services and limit the use of martial laws

Following are summaries and excerpts from speeches by Parliament members made at Saturday's session during which the Lower House of Parliament debated and approved the 1988 budget:

Abdullah Akaileh Tafilah constituency

Deputy Abdullah Akaileh, a member of the House financial committee, dedicated his speech to complain about measures practiced by security bodies and the government which he said were counterproductive and harmed the long-term stability of the Kingdom.

Describing internal security as "the pulse of life for society," Dr. Akaileh said that some practices by security organisations have promoted a sense of injustice among citizens and harmed the overall interests of the state.

"The duty of security organs is to remove the fuse and not to help ignite it," the Tafilah deputy said. "Its duty is to seek the loyalty of citizens and not to push them to antagonism; to enhance their love of the country and not to incur their hate; to gather people around the regime and not push them away from it."

"I have been concerned with the problem of security measures applied to some citizens, as it has concerned many citizens throughout the years of my membership in the House," Dr. Akaileh said. "Many citizens have called on me concerning this problem, and it is a matter that is increasing in severity and accelerating day after day, to the point where the issue has become one before which we are only shrugging our shoulders and saying 'There is no strength or power except through God,' (a verse from the Holy Koran)."

"These security measures have much more negative effects than its practitioners may perceive," Dr. Akaileh told the House. "Hundreds of families have become threatened because of the dismissal of their breadwinners who were banned from work in public institutions and, sometimes, even to earn their livelihood at private institutions."

Dr. Akaileh appealed to concerned authorities to consider the "psychological and socio-political effects" resulting from such security measures.

"I hereby demand from your esteemed House and the esteemed government to interfere to reinstate constitutional and legal controls on the behaviour that I can only describe as the first element for a breach in security and stability in the society."

"These practices and measures are illegal and unconstitutional," Dr. Akaileh said, adding that violations of the law by citizens should be left to be handled by courts. "No institution or authority has the right to go beyond the limits of the constitution and law and to assume authorities defined for other institutions."

"To all the wise and loyal people I say that what is happening in this respect harms the regime in this country."

Security systems, he said, are the arms of the executive branch and the source of its information for decision makers on the level of the executive authority. "But for these organs to become the authority that takes decisions and goes beyond its security role to a purely political role is something that violates the constitution and contradicts it. These organs have furthermore violated the constitutional pyramid and the principle of balance and separation of authorities and has assumed a position above the three branches of state on the constitutional pyramids."

Dr. Akaileh continued: "The responsibility for this rests on the shoulders of the government which is responsible for this constitutional imbalance."

"It has become clear for every citizen and official that the role of government has clearly grown and intensified on the external level, while internal matters have been left to be handled by the security organs." He said this was "something before which we cannot remain silent."

"Martial laws come as an exception and not the rule in the governing of states. The reasons for their existence are usually for circumstance beyond the control of the state. The limits for its application should be the narrowest towards securing the high-

er interests of the state and its sovereignty.

"But what is really regrettable is that the General Military Governor (the prime minister) has used martial law, on many occasions, outside the defined context. He used them to dismiss a number of citizens from their jobs and has also used them to circumvent some others from getting their rights through the courts by stopping courts from looking into their appeals."

Dr. Akaileh said: "This is a clear injustice that we do not accept, and which should not be practiced by the prime minister. Besides being a violation of the constitution that guarantees the freedom of the pursuit of justice, it is also an abuse of authority."

Stressing the importance of internal security in preserving society's achievements and development, Dr. Akaileh said that without security, "the state loses the elements for its existence and the continuation of its entity."

"This is why we want the security system in our country to be a base on which to rest our entity and protect our achievements in an atmosphere of stability."

"No security system, no matter how strong, is capable of achieving security and stability in society except through a bridge of confidence extending to the citizen. Only then would the security base expand so that its roots go deep into society. We want our security organs to be on a high level of efficiency and training, equipped with the modern information systems."

Commenting on the 1988 fiscal budget and the five-year development plan, Dr. Akaileh said that when he asked the finance minister about the allocations in the budget for the five-year development plan, the minister said he did not know.

"I have deduced from his answer that there was no coordination between the allocations for development projects in the budget and allocations in the five year plan," Dr. Akaileh questioned the feasibility of efforts spent on drafting the five-year development plan.

"It appears to me that the budget is in one valley and the plan is in another."

Riad Nawayseh Karak constituency

Deputy Riad Nawayseh hailed in his speech "the martyrs of Palestine and its revolt, who once again are reaffirming that armed struggle and sacrifice is the only way to liberate the homeland and uproot the Zionist racist aggressor from the Arab-Islamic land of Palestine."

Dr. Nawayseh praised the Iraqi people for their defence of "the eastern flank of the Arab Nation, where the convoys of honourable martyrs have been defending for seven years the evil wind coming from Khomeneism that is allied with Zionism and imperialism."

The Karak deputy said that Arab regimes have realised "just as their people have done, that any of these regimes do not hold the elements of a sovereign state away from collective Arab resources and energies. It has become clear that the role played by the Zionist entity in the Arab region has forced these states to reconsider their policies and to return to raising the flag of joint Arab action and solidarity in an unsuccessful attempt to contain and postpone their crises."

Dr. Nawayseh said that Arab states should "detonate" the powers of their people and their resources in accordance with a democratic, progressive and unity-oriented vision that embrace all Arabs in addition to supporting the struggle of the Palestine Liberation Organisation until the Zionist disease is removed from the body of the nation."

Commenting on the budget, Dr. Nawayseh criticised the real amount of the deficit and urged for a treatment of the situation. He said that foreign debts were "dangerously burdensome" and that there was a need to stop and draw up a fiscal and monetary policy that can tackle the problem.

He called for limiting the gov-

ernment spending and for an end of supporting financially ailing companies and projects. He urged the government to redirect its budget to tackle the basic problems facing people such as unemployment, the decline in economic activity, the deficit, foreign debts and national sovereignty.

Dr. Nawayseh said that national solutions required mobilising the people behind their leadership. He said such an undertaking called for the adoption of the following measures:

— Lifting martial laws and releasing the constitution.

— The cancellation of the martial law of 1939.

— Reconsidering all laws and exceptional legislation that limit freedom.

— The amendment of the election law in harmony with the constitution.

— Releasing public freedom and legalising political parties and organisations, without any restriction or sponsorship and guaranteeing the freedom of opinion and expression in all its forms.

Laith Shbeilat Amman constituency

Laith Shbeilat called in his speech for the development of Arab forces to deal with Israeli aggression and liberate the occupied territories by force. He called for arming the people to confront Israeli threats, hailing the uprising of Palestinians in the occupied territories, he called for Arab support for the wave of protests against Israeli occupation. He said Israel would not opt for peace unless it was threatened by force. "What is taken by force cannot be restored but by force."

Mr. Shbeilat called on the government to level with the people.

"We have entered a very difficult phase on the political and economic levels which we cannot overcome except by an honest stand," Mr. Shbeilat said. "This requires work in this direction by the House and the government by establishing confidence between the rulers and the ruled."

The Amman deputy criticised the intelligence department. "Unfortunately," Mr. Shbeilat said, "the gap between the people and the government is widening because of daily practices by the intelligence (department) in classifying people and cutting their livelihoods and banning them from travel."

He said the government had promised not to expand in the implementation of martial laws and stressed its respect for the citizens and their freedom of opinion and expression.

"And now, after three years," Mr. Shbeilat told the House, "it has become clear that the government, contrary to what it had promised, has expanded in the use of martial authorities, reaching the point of dismissing (citizens from their jobs) for the most trivial reasons that have no bearing on security whatsoever."

He said that during its present term, the government has "reinstated things the people had forgotten, such as interfering in municipal election as in the case of Irbid municipality elections, when a junior security staff decided, in the name of Jordan, that certain people were not responsible enough to nominate themselves (for the elections)." He said that the security official has banned certain people from running in the elections. He did not provide any names.

Mr. Shbeilat called on the government to assume its responsibilities defined by the constitution in order to avoid abuses of other authorities in the system. He also called for the establishment of public accountability among government officials as well as parliamentarians and the press.

He said that certain decisions and practices by some officials have often created burdens on the economy. He said these officials "have not been held accountable. Some were even entrusted to put in order what they themselves have spoiled."

"We demand that all those who practised and still practise such acts be called to accept on their actions in accordance with the priorities and gravity of their action," Mr. Shbeilat said.

Deputies: Nader Abu Al Shaar, Jamal Obaidat, Rizk Al Bataineh
Irbid constituency

The three deputies presented a joint paper which called on the government to make allocations for the following:

— Building the King Abdullah Hospital in Irbid in view of the need for hospital services and the lack of proper services at the moment.

— Setting up a voluntary scout camp in the northern regions. Erecting an integrated agricultural school in the Irbid Gov-

ernorate to prepare students for studies at Shobak and Rabbeh agricultural schools.

— Allocating funds for Irbid's Governorate to set up schools. At present Irbid governorate has 100 schools, all of them rented building in bad conditions.

— Helping Irbid municipality financially so that it can expand its services.

— Allocating funds for building new roads and improving others in the Irbid Governorate.

Yousef Al Azem Ma'an constituency

Deputy Yousef Al Azem urged the government to allow more freedom to the press and expression in the country. "Isn't it the right thing to do to allow freedom for the newspapers to write and for writers to breathe and comment?" Mr. Azem asked.

He criticised the Ministry of Information for pressuring journalists and said that more freedom of the press would lead to a better level of understanding.

"What right does the Ministry of Information have to black out on speeches by deputies who enjoy immunity?" Mr. Azem asked. He said Parliament sessions "are now being reported according to the wishes of the official organs of the House and not according to what the deputy has said or adopted."

He said it was illogical to "distort deputies words... (I call for) lifting the censorship of the Ministry of Information on speeches by deputies, and I hope that today will be the beginning of a new practice in which we see the light between the lines."

Ribhi Mustafa Bethlehem constituency

Mr. Mustafa said: "In this brief speech I would like to convey the wishes of the people in the Bethlehem constituency:

— Rescheduling the payment of loans for housing.

— Paying the salaries of all those West Bank officials appointed after the 1967 war similar to school teachers there.

— Increasing the amounts of loans given to farmers for reclaiming their land.

— Supporting the work and programmes of cooperative organisations.

— Helping students financially to enable them to pay their fees to schools and universities in the East Bank and abroad.

— Creating jobs for unem-

ployed graduates living in the occupied territory.

— Extending the residence period for West Bank residents in the East Bank to allow them to find jobs.

— Pursuing contacts with the European Community to find markets for the produce of the occupied territory."

Nazih Ammarin Karak constituency

Dr. Ammarin said: "I support the government's endeavours to promote health services in the Kingdom and urge the government to pursue efforts to provide comprehensive health services to all sectors of the population because health is a service for all citizens."

"I would like to urge the Ministry of Health and the Jordan Medical Association to reduce charges for medical care and examination by private doctors and hospitals specially in the present difficult economic situation."

"I also call on the government to give more attention to hospital services in the Karak Governorate because the present services are not sufficient for the growing demand. There is also need for a nursing college in Karak, an idea approved by the government in 1985 and never implemented."

"The Karak Governorate was until recently out of telephone service, but the recent automatic telephone services have a high cost making it impossible for many people to benefit from the improvements."

Ati Abu El'izz Ma'an constituency

Mr. Abu El'izz said "the 1988 draft budget shows mutual, good cooperation and understanding between the legislative and executive authorities. It also reflects a sense of responsibility and effective participation between the two branches of the state in order to achieve the country's

national interests. "After reviewing the draft budget, I would like to point out to the following:

— Allocations made in the budget for our Armed Forces and public security forces are not sufficient for their duties and responsibilities. Therefore, I call for increasing these allocations for the Armed Forces and public security to enable them to achieve their development and training programmes."

— I would like to express my deep appreciation to the government for financial allocations it made in the 1988 budget for supporting the steadfastness of the Arab people in the occupied Arab territories. I hope that the government will extend more financial aid to the West Bank."

— Excessive government borrowing is very obvious in the budget. This is a very grave problem and makes it very necessary for us to reconsider its complications."

— I ask the government to raise the administrative status of Aqaba city to a governorate similar to other governorates in the Kingdom."

"Finally, I support the development projects and plans contained in the draft budget and wish the government all success."

Deputy Tahseen Al Fares Nablus constituency

Mr. Fares said: "The citizens of the occupied Arab territories look to the government to implement the directives of King Hussein with regard to the development plans in the occupied regions."

"I appeal to the government to re-examine its regulations and laws governing travel across the bridges, and to reconsider residence and movement of West Bankers in the East Bank. I also urge the government to help the citizens of the West Bank to market their industrial and agri-

cultural produce here and abroad."

"I believe that the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) is vital in this concern and is also helpful to enhance the steadfastness of the people in the occupied territories. At present and in the absence of a local authority in the occupied lands a total of 482 cooperative organisations are helping the Arab population to market their products and helping in housing and other schemes in the occupied territory. These cooperative organisations have helped in reclaiming land and offered services to different sectors of the population in health and education."

Carlos Di'mes Bethlehem constituency

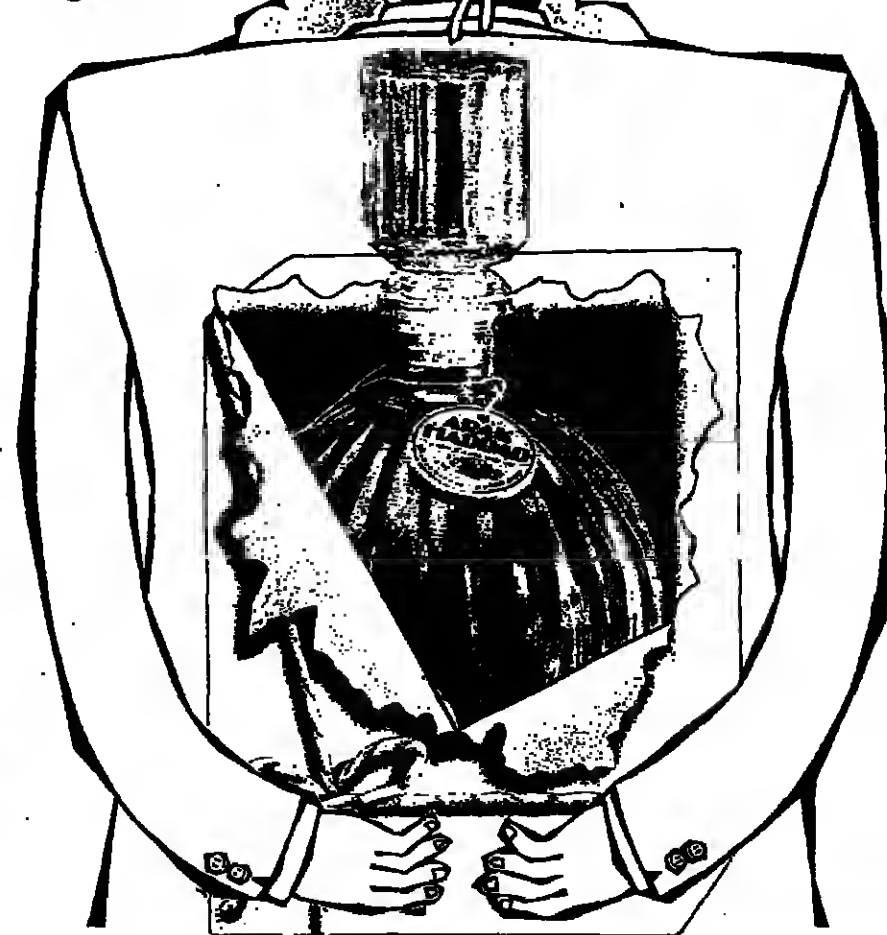
Dr. Di'mes said: "I would like to draw the attention of the government that the failure of major economic projects has shaken the confidence in Jordan's economic investment as a whole. This failure is mainly due to planning and execution and therefore the government is invited to deal with the causes of failure with a firm hand."

"The government is also invited to make it clear for all economic sectors which benefited from government-imposed protectionist measures that these measures are only temporary and that the economic sector should make its aim to produce good quality products so that national production can forge ahead with confidence."

"The government has planned and conducted contacts with Jordanian expatriates but this form of contact was limited and the government is called on to intensify its efforts."

"Despite the efforts made by Prince Hassan for overhauling the educational process in Jordan it is obvious that most graduates are turned out with poor learning."

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سكنا من اراك

Liverpool remains on top

The Reds' winning sequence equals 38-year-old club record

LONDON (Agencies) — Runaway English First Division leaders Liverpool equalled a 38-year-old club record on Saturday when they stretched their unbeaten run to 19 matches with a 1-0 home win over Sheffield Wednesday.

Gary Gillespie's 76th minute goal earned Liverpool their 14th win of the current campaign. The 1949-50 side began with 10 wins and nine draws.

With second-placed Arsenal scrambling a 1-1 draw at home to defending champions Everton in the top match of a First Division programme reduced to only five matches because of Christmas shopping, the Reds galloped seven points clear at the top.

They have 47 points, ahead of Arsenal on 40, Nottingham Forest, comfortable 2-0 winners at Oxford, on 37, and Manchester United on 35.

Central defender Steve Bruce had a winning start to his career at Old Trafford. Signed from Norwich for £825,000 (\$1.5 million) on Thursday, Bruce impressed at the back as United won 2-1 at Portsmouth.

England captain Bryan Robson gave United the lead in the 35th minute and a goal by Brian McClair early in the second half

— his 14th of the season — sealed Portsmouth's fate. Sheffield Wednesday, like Portsmouth struggling to climb away from the basement of the First Division, defended heroically against Liverpool until Gillespie broke the deadlock.

The Scottish international defender sidefooted the ball beyond goalkeeper Steve Hodge after Ray Houghton had headed on a John Barnes corner.

Arsenal, with only one win in their last five games, needed a controversial goal by David Rocastle 10 minutes from time to prevent Everton from recording their third successive win at High-bury.

Everton manager Colin Harvey leapt from his touchline seat to help captain Peter Reid keep a possee of furious Everton players away from referee Ken Red-fearns and linesman Brian Hawes.

Rocastle had looked metres offside as he ran clear and unchal-

lenged to score and cancel out a 41st minute strike by England defender Dave Watson.

Forest shrugged off the disappointment of a first-half penalty miss by Nigel Clough, son of manager Brian Clough, to give Oxford a footballing lesson at the Manor ground.

With England international Neil Webb in inspirational form in midfield, they swept to victory with second-half goals by Brian Rice and Calvin Plummer.

In Scotland, Celtic stayed atop the standings despite being held 0-0 at home by Aberdeen. Second placed Hearts were involved in another goalless tie at Dundee, while champion Rangers won 2-0 at Motherwell to close the gap on the leaders.

Kasparov retains title

SEVILLE, Spain (Agencies) — Reigning world chess champion Garry Kasparov retained his crown with a 64-move win over challenger Anatoly Karpov in the last game of their title match on Saturday.

The 24-year-old Kasparov overturned experts' predictions with a stunning 11th hour revival, keeping his nerve to fight back from a dramatic Karpov win in the 23rd game.

Kasparov's win in the final 24th game levelled the match score at 12 points all, which meant that as champion he retained his title.

When Karpov resigned after Kasparov's 64th move the capacity crowd in Seville's 700-seat Lope de Vega theatre stood and applauded.

The game had been adjourned Friday night with Kasparov a pawn ahead in an end game. Observers were divided about how great Kasparov's chances were to gain the decisive victory.

But Kasparov's chief analyst, Grandmaster Josef Dorfman, said before playing resumed that Kasparov had a 90-per cent chance of winning.

With a series of subtle manoeuvres Kasparov drove his queen into the heart of black's defences.

After the victory the two players denied rumours they get on badly and remained on stage to analyse the game together.

Crowds of chess enthusiasts burst into the main theatre from the foyer outside to watch the bizarre spectacle, breaking into wild cheers when the two players finally left.

Kasparov, striding off one side of the stage, celebrated his victory by leaping like a football player into the arms of one of his aides.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Jockey club acts after Piggott jailing

LONDON (AP) — Britain's horseracing administrators admitted Friday they were partly to blame for outdated rules governing ex-gratia payments to jockeys, the sort that took former champion rider Lester Piggott to jail for three years. Piggott was jailed in October for tax evasion and the court heard that much of his untaxed income came from ex-gratia payments he received from owners who wanted the ace jockey to ride their horses. Piggott had a retainer agreement with trainer Henry Cecil, who circulated owners asking them to make the extra payments to the jockey. After conducting its own inquiry, the Jockey Club, which governs horseracing in Britain, admitted it did not take adequate action to prevent the ex-gratia payments. In a prepared statement, officials said: "The stewards very much regret that the action taken on the Cecil letter was not effective and accept that the interests of all concerned would have been better served if more positive steps had been taken at the time." The Jockey Club announced it would review what it described as the "outdated" rules governing retainer agreements. It also decided that a rule that forbids jockeys to bet would be extended to include betting on jockeys' behalf. A third measure announced by the Jockey Club was that it would fund and distribute a tax guide explaining the law to jockeys.

Paper says Kuwaitis beat up Iraqi players

BAGHDAD (R) — An Iraqi sports newspaper said on Saturday members of the national soccer team were attacked by Kuwaiti police and fans during a qualifying match for the Seoul Olympics, which Kuwait won 2-1. Al Baath Al Riyadhi, whose editor-in-chief is a son of President Saddam Hussein, said three players and the team coach were beaten up by police acting "under the pretext of protecting the referee." Police intervened in the ill-tempered match on Friday when Iraqi players accused the referee, an Asian, of being biased in favour of Kuwait. The paper said several Iraqi photographers were also beaten when they tried to protect the team coach, Amnu Baha, from assault by Kuwaiti fans and police.

Turk breaks own weightlifting world record

ANTALYA, Turkey (R) — Turkish weightlifter Naim Suleymannoglu broke his own world record when he snatched 150 kilos (330 pounds) in an international competition on Saturday, the Anatolian News Agency said. Suleymannoglu, who defected from Bulgaria a year ago, beat his previous record of 148 kilos (325.5 pounds) by 0.5 kilos (1.1 pounds) at his second attempt before going on to 150 kilos. Suleymannoglu has set more than 25 world records and has been voted the world's top weightlifter for three successive years. He defected to Turkey after competing for Bulgaria at the World Cup tournament in Australia last December.

Finnish skier wins in Sapporo

SAPPORO, Japan (AP) — Matti Nykanen of Finland, gold medalist at the Sarajevo Winter Olympics, leaped 91.5 metres in the day's longest jump to win the 70-metre event in the World Cup Sapporo ski jumping on Saturday. Nykanen, three-time World Cup overall champion who won the 70-metre and 90-metre jumps in Thunder Bay, Ontario this season, earned 113.4 points in the day's single jump to beat second-place Werner Schuster of Austria by 14.0 points. The day's second jumps for the 64 jumpers from 14 countries were cancelled due to heavy snow. Schuster soared 85.0 metres and collected 99.0 points. Martin Svagerko of Czechoslovakia jumped 83.5 metres to place third with 96.1 points while his compatriot Pavel Ploc, the bronze medalist at Sarajevo, placed 19th by leaping 78.0 metres for 82.3 points.

Monaco retains top slot in France

MONACO (R) — Monaco ensured they remained on top of the French Soccer Championship after their final match before the winter break when they beat Paris St. Germain 2-1 on Friday. Goals by striker Jean-Marc Ferrate, after 33 minutes, and midfielder Fabrice Mege, after 66, put them in command before Argentine striker Gabriel Calderon set up Michel Bibard for a late consolation goal for the visitors. Monaco were without injured England striker Mark Hateley and Ivory Coast international Youssouf Fofana.

Sweden wins Davis Cup for 4th time

GOTHENBURG, Sweden (R) — Sweden reinforced its status as the most powerful force in men's tennis by regaining the Davis Cup on Saturday. It was the fourth time that Swedish players had won the trophy.

Having captured both opening singles against India on Friday for the total loss of just 15 games, the Swedes ended any lingering hopes of an Indian fairy tale recovery when Joakim Nystrom and Mats Wilander beat Anand and Vijay Amritraj 6-2, 3-6, 6-1, 6-2.

The Nystrom-Wilander combination, the 1986 Wimbledon champions, were pressed into action when Stefan Edberg had to pull out of the doubles part-

nership with Anders Jarryd because of an ankle injury.

Wilander had crushed Indian number one Ramesh Krishnan 6-4, 6-1, 6-3 in the opening singles and Sweden had entered the second day of the 76th Davis Cup final with a 2-0 lead after Jarryd routed Vijay Amritraj 6-3, 6-3, 6-1 on Friday night.

The one hour 55 minute doubles followed a predictably similar pattern as the two singles with the Amritraj brothers, combined age 69, supplying the tennis artistry and the Swedes, combined age 47, supplying most of the winners.

Anand Amritraj, in particular, appeared out of his depth at times and he discovered the world of

tennis has changed dramatically since he was a regular competitor on the circuit in the 1970s.

Semi-retired for the past two years, Anand Amritraj's last recorded computer ranking in 1985 was 792nd his powers have waned since then.

The older of the two brothers at 35, his gentle-paced serve is not a tennis weapon in the recognised sense, merely a way of starting each rally.

Nystrom and Wilander, who possess two of the finest service returns in the modern game, treated the Indian's serve with complete disdain and broke him twice in the first set which they raced through in 29 minutes.

Foreman stages comeback, targets Tyson

LAS VEGAS, Nevada (AP) — George Foreman, showing flashes of his old punching power, battered a game rocky Sekorski into submission in the third round Friday night for his fifth straight knockout during a comeback that started at age 39.

Foreman, who held the heavyweight championship from January 1973 to October 1974, methodically pounded Sekorski with jabs and savage right hands before referee Richard Steele stopped the bout at 2:48 of the third round.

"I want to fight for the championship of the world," Foreman said after the fight. "I want Mike Tyson."

Foreman, showing only a little flash over his trunks at 244 pounds (110 kilograms), patiently

stalked the overmatched Sekorski, landing easily with jabs that snapped Sekorski's head back and following them with right hands.

Sekorski, of the United States, managed to land a few right hands of his own in the second round, but by the third, he was nearly defenceless as Foreman landed about 30 consecutive shots to the head before the fight was stopped.

"I've fought champions in all parts of the world and Foreman hit harder than any of them," said Sekorski, 209, whose record fell to 20-8.

Foreman, 50-2 with 47 knockouts, easily had his best outing since beginning a comeback in March after a decade of inactivity in the ring. During those 10

years, his weight ballooned to more than 300 pounds (136 kilograms).

For the first time in his comeback, Foreman also faced a fighter that tried to give him a fight, with the 26-year-old Sekorski showing no give and refusing to go down even as Foreman battered him relentlessly.

"Joe Frazier didn't give me as tough a fight as that," Foreman said, referring to his second-round knockout of Frazier to win the heavyweight title nearly 15 years ago.

Following the first two rounds, the former champion stood in his corner, a foot propped on his stool as he talked with his corner men like he was chatting with friends on a street corner.

Baseball writers mulling over worth Hall of Fame candidates

NEW YORK (AP) — Baseball writers are studying their Hall of Fame ballot this month, struggling with it a little bit because that vote is an important responsibility.

This year's election is replete with names, 45 in all, listed alphabetically, from Dick Allen to Wilbur Wood.

There are contenders like Jim Bunning and Bill Mazeroski, Orlando Cepeda and Harvey Kuenn, Tony Oliva and Ron Santo. And there are pretenders like Lynn McGlothen and Bill Lee, John Milner and Doc Medich, Del Unser and John Mayberry.

One voter considered his options, quickly eliminating some candidates with minimal credentials — Milner, .249, McGlothen, .86-93, then mullied over others with more substantial numbers — Bunning .224-184, Cepeda, .297, 379 home runs.

If there is one automatic on the ballot, he noted, it is Willie Stargell. The man hit 475 career home runs, had five seasons in which he drove in over 100 runs, and all but willed the Pittsburgh

Pirates to a World Series Championship in 1979 with a virtuoso performance that combined on-the-field production with clubhouse leadership.

OK, then, we start with Stargell.

Well, not all of us do. Another member of the fraternity frowned when the suggestion was made that Pops ought to be No. 1 on the ballot.

"First year," the man said. "Make him wait a while." The logical reply to that is, "why?" Stargell and every other Cooperstown candidate's records are complete. They have done all that they will do. There will be no more home runs and no more RBIs for hitters, no more strikeouts and no more shutouts for the pitchers. The evaluation must be made on their completed portfolios, and if they are Hall of Fame-worthy, then that means right now, not down the road sometime.

There are some voters, however, who see first-year election as a special honour reserved only for the elite and resist voting for even the most worthy rookie candidates.

In the nearly half century that the BBWAA has been electing Hall of Famers, only 16 of the 73 players named by the writers have gotten in on the first ballot. In their first year on the ballot, nine voters didn't think Hank Aaron (775 home runs) deserved to get in and four found a way to

leave T.Y. Cobb (.367 career batting average) out.

It is understandable to pass on a player a couple of times if he is a marginal candidate or if he becomes eligible in a year when an overwhelming choice comes up for election. That does not, however, describe Stargell, not after the 21 years he put in, not after he set seven-game World Series records for long hits (7) and total bases (25) in 1979, not after he shared regular season and swept playoff and World Series MVP awards that magical season.

Still, some voters will make him wait. That's just their nature and more a reflection on them than it is on him. Just as Stargell dominates the hitters, another rookie might be the ball's best pitching candidate. None of the others won more games than the 229 recorded by Luis Tiant in his 19 big league years and only two — Bunning and Mickey Lolich — had more than Tiant's 2,416 strikeouts.

Tiant had another rather unique ability which, although not ordinarily a Hall of Fame criteria, is nevertheless worth noting. He was the only player of his time who took showers while puffing on a cigar. It would be fit when he went in, and still going when he came out. Next month, he'll find out if the flame was bright enough to lead him to Cooperstown.

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Japanese call for measures to stabilise exchange rates

TOKYO (AP) — Japanese business leaders asked the government Friday to cooperate with other nations in stabilising exchange rates and preserving the free-trade system.

Mr. Isamu Yamashita, chairman of the board of directors of the Federation of Economic Organisations, said the Japanese economy was endangered by global economic chaos as illustrated by the recent stock market plunges and wild exchange rate fluctuations.

Mr. Yamashita urged Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita to act to cushion the impact of the yen's appreciation on the Japanese economy and to coordinate economic policies with other major nations.

The yen has risen by 92 per cent against the U.S. dollar since finance ministers of major industrial nations agreed in September 1985 to drive the dollar's value downward to help the United States cut its trade deficit.

The higher value of the yen has made Japanese exports more expensive, forcing exporters to slash production costs and boost overseas production.

Government economists and private analysts agree that the

economy has basically recovered from the first shock of the yen's appreciation, and is showing signs of strong growth stimulated by government measures, to boost demand for goods and services inside Japan.

But the dollar's precipitous slide in recent weeks had led many businessmen to express concern that exchange rates are changing too quickly to allow the economy to adjust.

"In this time of rapid development of global economic interdependence, stability of exchange rates is absolutely essential," Mr. Yamashita told the meeting.

Mr. Yamashita pointed out that the world is expecting Japan to open its markets, resolve trade friction and fully participate in economic cooperation, especially through the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), a Geneva-based organisation that mediates trade disputes.

"We must not forget how the United States and Europe, especially the United States, helped us during our time of hunger during the war, and how we have benefited from the free trade system under GATT," Mr. Yamashita said. "It is Japan's responsibility to help preserve that free trade system."

Central bank warns Pakistani government on budget deficit

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan's central bank has delivered a sharp warning to the government to bring its spending into line with its income or risk endangering the country's economic prospects.

The State Bank's annual report said growth continued strong at seven per cent a year and the trade balance had improved sharply.

But it called for urgent action to increase the tax base and to generate more savings and investment in the economy if growth was to be maintained and inflation avoided.

The report, for the financial year 1986/87, said the budget deficit had doubled over the past three years to 53 billion rupees (about \$3 billion).

The State Bank was particularly concerned that government expenditure had risen by nearly 18 per cent over the year, which runs from July to June. Revenues had risen only 11 per cent and the gap had to be met by increased borrowing.

"The situation needs urgent rectification if relative financial stability and viability of balance of payments is to be maintained in the years ahead," the report said.

"Strenuous efforts and a more far-sighted approach are required to curb private and public consumption," it noted.

Growth in levels of government and private spending in the past few years in Pakistan was one of the highest among low-income developing countries, the report said. Yet the level of national savings compared

poorly. The State Bank said the government had made no progress in reforming the tax system or mobilising new resources during 1986/87. Total tax revenues had stagnated around 13 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) for nearly a decade.

Income tax represented only 13 per cent of total tax revenue, compared with 19 per cent five years ago.

Independent economists say the slim tax base is one of Pakistan's most serious economic problems and criticise the Muslim league government for failing to tax the incomes of land-owners and farmers, the backbone of its support.

The provisional 7.0 per cent growth in GDP represented a slight fall on 7.3 per cent in 1985/86 and a larger drop from the 9.0 per cent recorded in 1984/85. But the State Bank said it compared favourably with the average rate of five per cent among non-oil-producing developing countries.

The report appealed for action to cut population growth. The Muslim country's current population of 100 millions is growing at an estimated three per cent a year.

Pakistan's external balances improved for the second successive year, with the current account deficit falling to \$750 million from \$1.24 billion in 1985/86.

This was largely due to a 19 per cent rise in exports, twinned with a three per cent drop in imports.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, Dec. 12, '87 and ending Wednesday, Dec. 16, '87. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Banking and financial institutions					
Industrial Development Bank	—	—	—	—	1,000
Peira Bank	14813	30375	2.020	2.060	1,000
Jordan Islamic Bank	600	1140	1.900	1.900	1,000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	6676	11216	1.680	1.680	1,000
Jordan Gulf Bank	9360	11903	1.280	1.280	1,000
Housing Bank	102300	173866	1.660	1.700	1,000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	50000	110000	2.210	2.200	1,000
Cairo Amman Bank	602	12914	21.000	22.100	5,000
Bank of Jordan	3498	59094	16.850	16.900	5,000
Arab Bank	590	72492	120.750	121.500	10,000
Jordan National Bank	4625	11830	2.580	2.550	1,000
Jordan Finance House for Development	73500	80850	1.100	1.100	1,000
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	16260	21440	1.830	1.800	1,000
Finance and Credit Corporation	24880	14896	0.620	0.600	1,000
National Financial Investments	8650	14030	1.720	1.640	1,000
National Portfolio Securities	11228	8194	0.730	0.730	1,000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	—	—	—	—	1,000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	50	750	15.000	15.000	2,000
Al Mashrek Exchange	—	—	—	—	10,000
Insurance and reinsurance					
Jordan French Insurance	2865	18346	6.500	6.310	1,000
REPCO Life Insurance	1869	2026	1.140	1.080	1,000
Jordan Insurance	387	5225	13.900	13.500	1,000
Arabs Life and Accident Insurance	1100	1101	1.050	1.000	1,000
Yamouk Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Yolam Land Insurance	100	117	1.150	1.170	1,000
Philadelphia Insurance	3650	2628	0.720	0.720	1,000
Arab Union International Insurance	500	450	0.910	0.900	1,000
Jerusalem Insurance	4040	5695	1.400	1.410	1,000
Jordan Gulf Insurance	955	965	1.010	1.010	1,000
Universal Insurance	24350	23709	0.940	0.940	1,000
General Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Eagle Insurance	—	—	—	—	10,000
Middle East Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Al-Izzah Insurance	1600	1232	0.770	0.770	1,000
National Ahliya Insurance	2125	2859	1.330	1.350	1,000
Arab Belgian Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Services and industries					
General Investments	9805	14181	1.600	1.480	1,000
Inna for Investment and Financial Facilities	553	366	0.690	0.660	1,000
Darco for Housing and Investment	37854	17120	0.420	0.450	1,000
Real Estate Investment (Aqarco)	9860	4430	0.420	0.480	1,000
Jordan Leasing Corporation	99	64	0.670	0.640	1,000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	11440	1144	0.600	0.600	1,000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance (Ta'jeero)	1500	455	0.810	0.800	1,000
Jordan Electric Power	9914	15358	1.550	1.540	1,000
Irbid District Electricity	628	634	1.010	1.010	1,000
Arab International Hotels	—	—	—	—	1,000
Hotels and Tourism	—	—	—	—	1,000
Garage Owners Federation Office	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan National Shipping Lines	590	502	0.850	0.850	1,000
Jordan Press Foundation	200	660	3.500	3.300	1,000
Jordan Press and Publishing	—	—	—	—	1,000
Dar Al Shaab Press, Printing and Publishing	11550	3659	0.320	0.310	1,000
Jordan Dairy	8140	8484	1.040	1.040	1,000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	14573	31820	2.140	2.190	1,000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	182699	202907	1.100	1.100	1,000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	4366	10894	2.400	2.500	1,000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Imaj)	1715	3235	1.470	1.470	1,000
Arab Chemical Detergent Industries	6789	47413	5.400	5.300	1,000
Aladdin Industries	31300	36871	1.240	1.150	1,000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	63478	114805	1.850	1.830	1,000
Jordan Worsteds Mills	737	3426	4.650	4.660	1,000
Jordan Ceramics	27136	29333	1.090	1.080	1,000
Chemical Industries	31070	37775	1.220	1.280	1,000
Jordan Industries and Match (JIMCO)	15350	10635	0.700	0.690	1,000
Dar Al Dawa' for Development and Investment	15669	23648	1.510	1.500	1,000
National Steel Industries	36650	103204	2.820	2.800	1,000
Universal Chemical Industries	45815	59162	1.320	1.270	1,000
General Mining	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	6901	51832	7.520	7.550	5,000
Jordan Lime & Brick	45601	7296	0.160	0.160	1,000
National Industries	150	77	0.500	0.510	1,000
Arab Paper Converting and Trading	500	125	0.270	0.250	1,000
Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO)	3160	3065	0.970	0.970	1,000
Livestock and Poultry	6500	4473	0.700	0.710	1,000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	2040	2476	1.250	1.230	1,000
Rafia Industrial for Plastic Bags	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Paper and Cardboard	18724	56274	2.980	3.300	1,000
Jordan Rockwood Industries	33450	21128	0.620	0.630	1,000
Trans-Jordan Minerals Research	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Himeh Mineral	—	—	—	—	1,000
Orient Dry Batteries Factory	—	—	—	—	1,000
Woolen Industries	1000	700	0.690	0.700	1,000
Jordan Tanning	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Printing and Packaging	150	450	3.000	3.000	1,000
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette	365	5329	14.500	14.600	5,000
Mas Industries	—	—	—	—	1,000
Arab Center for Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	—	—	—	—	1,000
National Cable & Wire Manufacturing	13150	12273	0.940	0.930	1,000
Jordan Spinning & Weaving	230903	224848	0.990	0.970	1,000
Jordan Sulpho Chemicals	27850	81878	3.250	3.180	1,000
Jordan Cement Factories	49988	52203	1.040	1.040	1,000
Jordan Glass Industries	2750	2496	0.910	0.910	1,000
Grand total	1,394,436	2,009,756	—	—	—

U.S. president threatens veto on spending, tax bills

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan threatened on Friday to veto the largest spending bill in U.S. history and a companion tax measure if they do not comply with a White House-Congress accord to cut the federal budget deficit.

Congressional Republican leaders said that President Reagan warned he would forego his Christmas holiday and through vetoes, force Congress to rewrite the bills if he objected to them.

Negotiators from the House of Representatives and Senate were working on a \$600 billion spending bill, history's largest, to keep most government functions operating through September.

That measure, combined with another bill containing taxes and spending cuts, would implement the White House-Congress agreement to cut the federal budget deficit by at least \$30 billion from an estimated \$180 billion in 1988.

Another \$46 billion would be cut in 1989.

President Reagan cited several reasons for threatening a veto — if the legislation does not comply with the budget accord, if there is no military aid to Nicaraguan rebels included or if Congress revives the "fairness doctrine" requiring broadcasters to give equal time for political and controversial opinions.

Earlier on Friday, House and Senate negotiators agreed to a \$23 billion tax package — directed mostly at corporations — to help implement the White House accord.

The budget agreement was developed by anxious lawmakers and White House officials following the October stock market collapse, which prompted inter-

national demands that the United States get a hold of its long-standing deficit problem.

House Republican leader, Mr. Bob Michel, and Senate Republican leader, Mr. Bob Dole, told the House and Senate on Friday that President Reagan wanted Congress to live up to the letter of the accord to cut the deficit by \$76 billion over two years.

They said President Reagan was also insisting on inclusion of military as well as non-military aid for Nicaraguan contra rebels. The Senate wants a package of about \$16 million including military aid, while the House has proposed \$5.5 million in non-military aid only.

"He won't give on any kind of concession," Mr. Michel said of the president. "To do less would be unilateral disarmament of the contra."

Congress must complete the spending bill before it adjourns for the year.

The government was operating on temporary spending authority that was to expire at midnight, but congressional leaders said there would be little disruption of government services over the weekend if Congress did not finish.

Since President Reagan took office, the United States has doubled its total debt to over \$2 trillion, mostly through large defense expenditures and tax cuts.

Meanwhile, U.S. consumer prices rose less last month than in

October despite higher energy costs, the Commerce Department said on Friday, and they should ease further as world oil prices continue coming down.

The consumer price index gained 0.3 per cent in November after a 0.4 per cent October rise, leaving U.S. inflation for the first 11 months at 4.7 per cent, well above 1986's 1.1 per cent rate but down from 4.8 per cent a month earlier.

Consumers also seemed to pick up the spending pace in the first full month after the mid-October stock market collapse, pushing spending up 0.5 per cent in November after a revised 0.2 per cent cutback in October.

The department originally said October spending was unchanged from September.

In a report on personal income and spending, the agency also said a drop in farm subsidy payments in November pulled income down for the first time since May 1985.

Overall personal income was down 0.4 per cent, or about \$17 billion, last month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$3.83 trillion, after rising 1.8 per cent in October. The last time income fell was in May 1985, when it dropped 0.3 per cent.

But, excluding farm subsidies, which were concentrated in October, income from wages, salaries and other sources gained 0.7 per cent in both October and November.

Analysis said November's lower inflation, resulting mainly from smaller price increases for food, shelter and apparel that offset higher energy prices, was especially heartening now that oil prices were heading down.

Banks in Hong Kong plan negative interest rates to curb speculation

HONG KONG (R) — The Hong Kong Association of Banks and the government plan to take the unusual step of charging negative interest rates in a bid to curb speculation that the local currency will appreciate.

The association said on Saturday it had decided, after consulting the government, to adopt a new rule to charge a fee on large bank balances within the clearing system.

It said in a statement the rule is put in place to curb speculation that the Hong Kong dollar's 7.80 peg rate to the U.S. dollar might be changed soon.

Under the new rule the fee is initially set at zero per cent, meaning no fee will be charged yet. The fee will be raised according to market situation and will then be effective within 24 hours. It provides for charging interest on credit balances held overnight at the clearing house.

The new rule, if carried out, will mean the first time negative interest rate is applied anywhere in the world in many years, foreign exchange dealers said.

They said Swiss banks charged negative interest rates in the 1970s when there was an influx of funds to buy the Swiss francs as a haven against inflation.

Bank association chairman, Mr. John Mackenzie, said the new rule was a warning to speculators.

"The association has introduced this new rule, after consultation with the financial secretary, to provide a mechanism for collecting interest on excessive credit balances, and in response to the continued speculation regarding the Hong Kong dollar/U.S. dollar link," he said.

The fee applies only to all licensed banks who are members of the association but will be passed on by the banks to their

customers including overseas banks, financial institutions and corporations.

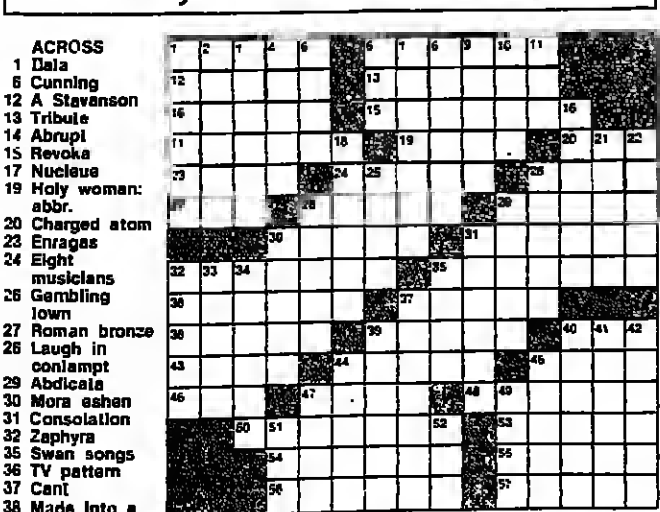
The fees collected will be passed on to the Hong Kong government, which has repeatedly affirmed that the link rate of 7.80 will not be changed.

Mr. Mackenzie, also Hong Kong head of Standard Chartered Bank, said by penalising banks who keep excess funds in the clearing system over their business needs, it will be more expensive to speculate on a revaluation of the Hong Kong dollar.

Speculation of a change in the peg began last month following comments by senior U.S. officials that the Hong Kong dollar was undervalued, dealers said.

They said market rumours suggested the local unit might appreciate by 10 to 15 per cent early next year, probably in the second quarter.

THE Daily Crossword by Fran Ragus



- ACROSS
- 1 Dala
 - 2 Cunning
 - 3 A Stevenson
 - 4 Tribute
 - 5 Abrupt
 - 6 Revoked
 - 7 Nucleus
 - 8 Holy woman: abbr.
 - 9 Charged atom
 - 10 Enraged
 - 11 Eight
 - 12 muscians
 - 13 Gembling
 - 14 Ioun
 - 15 Roman bronze
 - 16 Laugh in contempt
 - 17 Abdicate
 - 18 Mora ashen
 - 19 Consolation
 - 20 Zephyra
 - 21 Swan songs
 - 22 TV pattern
 - 23 Cent
 - 24 Made into a
 - 25 curra
 - 26 Cuban dance
 - 27 Dupot: abbr.
 - 28 Use a
 - 29 branding iron
 - 30 piece
 - 31 Whirly
 - 32 Marching
 - 33 Intersection
 - 34 Fr. city
 - 35 Meal
 - 36 Issue
 - 37 Of certain
 - 38 royalty
 - 39 Off the right
 - 40 path
 - 41 Ryan or
 - 42 Castle
 - 43 Virtuous
 - 44 Gravel ridge
- DOWN
- 1 Broad illot
 - 2 Cleveo
 - 3 Exact replicas
 - 4 Pealties
 - 5 Building spot
 - 6 Chin, tea
 - 7 — tharmid
 - 8 Ham actor
 - 9 Man's man
 - 10 Shield
 - 11 Legal point
 - 12 Wintry
 - 13 — derby
 - 14 In readiness
 - 15 Observes
 - 16 So-so grades
 - 17 Race type
 - 18 Disconcerted
 - 19 Mills or Read
 - 20 Diminish
 - 21 gradually
 - 22 Madonna or
 - 23 Jackson
 - 24 Sumptuous
 - 25 Peep show
 - 26 Get away
 - 27 Ward (old)
 - 28 Acute
 - 29 Acquisit
 - 30 Sissy of Ilme
 - 31 Herbal
 - 32 beverage
 - 33 Horn
 - 34 — Barbara
 - 35 Goads
 - 36 Currency
 - 37 Miss Adams
 - 38 Entenaler
 - 39 Davis
 - 40 Inspec

Horoscope not received

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



S. Korean protests continue as opposition split grows

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Dissidents renewed calls Saturday for nationwide protests to overturn Roh Tae-Woo's victory in presidential elections, but opposition leader Kim Young-Sam refused to work with rival Kim Dae-Jung on the struggle.

The Kims, who have come under increasing criticism for both running in the election, separately urged non-violent protests but continued to charge that fraud, not their split, lost them the race.

The only protests reported by Saturday afternoon were in Kwangju, Kim Dae-Jung's stronghold, where several thousand demonstrators threw rocks and firebombs at police, who returned volleys of tear gas.

"The failure for a single opposition candidacy cannot offset the fraudulent election," Kim Dae-Jung told reporters. "Roh Tae-Woo could not have won if a fair election had been held."

Mr. Kim said the opposition could not "dig out" cases of election fraud, however, because the media are pro-government.

All major opposition groups have called for massive protests, accusing the government of enacting wide-scale fraud to rig Wednesday's election, but have offered little proof of extensive irregularities.

The National Election Commission formally confirmed Mr. Roh's election Friday, saying he received 36.6 per cent of the vote, while Kim Young-Sam received 28 per cent and Kim Dae-Jung 27 per cent. Minor candidate Kim Jong-Pil won 8 per cent.

Kim Dae-Jung sent an emissary Saturday to Kim Young-Sam to discuss a common front for the struggle against Mr. Roh.

But Kim Young-Sam refused to meet with the messenger as he and his Reunification Democratic Party staged a 24-hour sit-in at their offices to protest election fraud.

Kim Young-Sam ran a paid advertisement in two leading newspapers declaring the election was null due to fraud, and promised "all sorts of peaceful and non-violent methods will be mobilised" in the fight to overturn the result.

Elsewhere, dissident leader Rev. Moon Il-Wan and four other dissident leaders met at the headquarters of the main opposition National Coalition for Democracy to plan national protests.

The coalition, which fielded 100,000 election watchers around the country during the election, announced the inauguration of the "Pan-National Conference to Fight for the Nullification of the Fraudulent Election."

Later, about 2,000 mostly student dissidents rallied in front of Seoul's Myongdong Cathedral, the downtown site of fierce protests in June, to protest alleged widespread election fraud. They distributed leaflets to passers-by and taunted riot police lined up along side streets.

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Citizens allege that Mr. Roh, then an army general, was involved in the crackdown.

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"Therefore, all crew and passengers onboard are presumed dead."

He said authorities would continue to investigate what he called the exact background to the incident.

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He said the retrieved life raft, which had been stored in the cabin opposite emergency exit No. 1 in the front, was found on the sea after being torn away from its place by the blast. A steel bar on the raft was warped by intense heat.

Meanwhile an Asian woman suspect started talking to investigators Saturday after recovering from horrors that overwhelmed her since she was extradited from Bahrain.

Opposition parties rejected the offer, saying he should resign before new elections are held to ensure a fair poll.

Gen. Ershad dissolved parliament early this month and pledged a new general election to outflank opposition charges that he rigged victories in parliamentary and presidential polls last year.

Gen. Ershad, who imposed a state of emergency on Nov. 27 to thwart strikes that have closed jute mills, factories and ports, accused opposition parties of "acting under foreign instigation."

He did not identify any country.

He dismissed rumours of a possible coup, saying the army was now a highly disciplined force which respected democracy.

The strikes and protests led by 21 opposition parties, the latest of several campaigns against Gen. Ershad since he took power in a bloodless coup in March 1982, began five weeks ago.

In his speech on Friday, Gen. Ershad challenged the opposition to test its popularity at the polls. He has said he might hold a presidential as well as a parliamentary election.

"I firmly believe there is no alternative to elections for a change of government. If you (opposition) win the vote, I will hand over power the next day and leave," he said.

Officials said 13 days of stoppages during the opposition campaign had cost Bangladesh more than \$700 million in lost production and exports.

Economists have said that strikes planned for next week would further damage Bangladesh's already fragile economy.

Sheikh Hasina, head of the main opposition party, the Awami League, repeated a longstanding refusal to take part in new elections unless Gen. Ershad resigned first.

"He is just buying time by talking about fair polls. There cannot be an honest vote so long as he remains in power," she told her supporters in Dhaka on Friday.

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He said authorities would continue to investigate what he called the exact background to the incident.

KAL President Cho Choong-Kun, returning from Burma on Thursday, told reporters a bomb might have gone off in the front part of the airliner.

He said the retrieved life raft, which had been stored in the cabin opposite emergency exit No. 1 in the front, was found on the sea after being torn away from its place by the blast. A steel bar on the raft was warped by intense heat.

Meanwhile an Asian woman suspect started talking to investigators Saturday after recovering from horrors that overwhelmed her since she was extradited from Bahrain.

Opposition parties rejected the offer, saying he should resign before new elections are held to ensure a fair poll.

Gen. Ershad dissolved parliament early this month and pledged a new general election to outflank opposition charges that he rigged victories in parliamentary and presidential polls last year.

Gen. Ershad, who imposed a state of emergency on Nov. 27 to thwart strikes that have closed jute mills, factories and ports, accused opposition parties of "acting under foreign instigation."

He did not identify any country.

He dismissed rumours of a possible coup, saying the army was now a highly disciplined force which respected democracy.

The strikes and protests led by 21 opposition parties, the latest of several campaigns against Gen. Ershad since he took power in a bloodless coup in March 1982, began five weeks ago.

In his speech on Friday, Gen. Ershad challenged the opposition to test its popularity at the polls. He has said he might hold a presidential as well as a parliamentary election.

"I firmly believe there is no alternative to elections for a change of government. If you (opposition) win the vote, I will hand over power the next day and leave," he said.

Officials said 13 days of stoppages during the opposition campaign had cost Bangladesh more than \$700 million in lost production and exports.

Economists have said that strikes planned for next week would further damage Bangladesh's already fragile economy.

Sheikh Hasina, head of the main opposition party, the Awami League, repeated a longstanding refusal to take part in new elections unless Gen. Ershad resigned first.

"He is just buying time by talking about fair polls. There cannot be an honest vote so long as he remains in power," she told her supporters in Dhaka on Friday.

100,000 election watchers around the country during the election, announced the inauguration of the "Pan-National Conference to Fight for the Nullification of the Fraudulent Election."

Later, about 2,000 mostly student dissidents rallied in front of Seoul's Myongdong Cathedral, the downtown site of fierce protests in June, to protest alleged widespread election fraud. They distributed leaflets to passers-by and taunted riot police lined up along side streets.

Chanting anti-government slogans, some of the students at one time marched down the street and confronted columns of riot police, but the police turned and departed and the students regrouped to hear speeches.

Except for Saturday's trouble in Kwangju and clashes there Friday involving 10,000 protesters, post-election battles have been sporadic and drawn little support from bystanders. The government has cracked down quickly on any attempts to rally.

Kwangju, the capital of a province known for its fiery politics and anti-government sentiment, was the site of a 1980 riot that was suppressed by the military with 193 deaths and more than 800 injuries. Dissidents claimed even more casualties occurred.

Citizens allege that Mr. Roh, then an army general, was involved in the crackdown.

Wreckage of the plane, including a life raft, emergency food and about 50 other items, was retrieved by a Burmese ship on Dec. 15 in the Andaman Sea. They were flown to Seoul on Thursday.

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